DIDI HAMANN ON STEVEN GERRARD + SANDER WESTERVELD ON CUP TREBLES + ROY EVANS ON THE REDS IN THE NINETIES

LIVERPOOL FC

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Flanno the boy done good

JOE ALLEN midfielder on a mission

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[exclusive interview]

Martin Skrtel

Diary of a Liverpool defender

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BIG TONY

Anfield's fixture between Liverpool and Arsenal was preceded by a minute's applause for former Reds striker Tony Hateley, who died aged 72. Signed by Bill Shankly for a club record £96,000 in 1967, Tony scored 28 goals in 56 appearances in his first and only full season with the club. There was applause too for Tom Finney, the great friend of Bill Shankly, before the subsequent match with Swansea City.


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BACK OF THE NET

Jordan Henderson turns to celebrate his second goal of the game in the thrilling 4-3 win over Swansea City at Anfield – a real poacher's effort. "I've been trying to arrive in the box a lot more," he told the club website. "So to find the back of the net was very pleasing as well. It's probably the most important goal I've scored here. I've still got a long way to go and a lot to do to improve my game – and I'll continue to do what I've been doing and work hard."


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"I take pride in the fact that I can provide different options for the team"



ED DRAGON

In a revealing interview Reds midfielder Joe Allen tells William Hughes how he's learned to adapt to life at Liverpool, and what's next for LFC

Ask Joe Allen to choose one word to sum up the reason for the Reds' attacking fluidity this season and he would probably pick 'flexibility'.

The Welshman himself embodies the spirit of adaptability that has been a hallmark of the handful of players that Brendan Rodgers has selected to operate between defence and the apex of attack.

With Luis Suarez and Daniel Sturridge dovetailing deliciously at the top-end of the field, the midfield quintet has shown an adaptability that has served the team well.

Eighteen months after his move from Swansea City, Allen believes his biggest achievement at Liverpool so far has been his ability to tailor his game to the shifting demands made of the modern midfielder.

Typically, Steven Gerrard has been the perfect example to those around him in that regard. The skipper's recent metamorphosis from a driving force characterised by lung-busting runs into the box to a reference point or 'controller' in front of the back-four has been rightly hailed by team-mates, coaches and pundits.

Allen has also proven his versatility. Looking relaxed as he chats at Melwood, he says: "I take pride in the fact that I can play in a couple of different positions and I provide different options in the team. One of the biggest adaptions for me coming here has been that I probably haven't played the role I expected to play when I joined as much. But at a club like this you have to understand that with the level of competition and the quality of players within the squad, it's not as simple as that.

"People ask me about my preferred role but it's difficult to pick a perfect position for myself. I just go out in training every day trying to improve all aspects of my game and leave that decision to the coaching staff. Wherever I'm picked, I'm happy to do that role. I think flexibility is the strength that we have in the team,


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especially in midfield. Stevie's come into the hole to play in front of the back-four. It's a great thing for the manager to have that in his squad – players who are able to be flexible and do a job for the team. From the point of view of Stevie, there was never any doubt that he would be able to go into that position and be just as effective and as key a player for us as in any other position he may fill. It's great to see him playing as well as he has been.

"We talk about Stevie but we also have players such as Coutinho who we've seen play as a wide player but is now operating more centrally. Henderson's been able to play wide and centrally as well. The team is looking forward and when you have great victories as we have in recent weeks, it means you can't wait to get back out on the field again."

Another adjustment Allen had to make since joining the Reds in the late summer of 2012 was getting used to playing for one of the world's iconic clubs. "Injuries aside, I'm happy with the way things are going," he continues. "Injuries are an unfortunate frustration that you can have in football. But I had a good run in the team before and just after Christmas, which was pleasing. I was a part of some good results and good performances. I'm happy to be over those injury problems and am looking forward to playing a part in the finale of what has been an exciting season."

Joe's route into football came against a sporting backdrop in which rugby union was dominant but he says the round ball was always more enticing than the oval one. "Nationally in Wales it's more rugby and where I come from in Pembrokeshire, that is certainly the number one sport. My dad's got a big background in rugby but it was always football for me. I had a bit of an interest in playing rugby at primary school and I flirted with it a little bit in terms of club rugby but it was football that grabbed me, basically from the age I could kick a ball. The rugby games always clashed with football so the decision was almost made for me.

"Tenby Juniors was my first football club and I joined them when I was around eight years old and before that I'd been on the usual half-term and summer-holiday football camps and enjoyed them. A scout named Ray Evans saw me in a school game and got in contact with Swansea. They offered me a six-week trial and I got my chance to travel up and train with them and luckily they wanted to keep me on.

"It was an hour's journey from my house. At first it was twice-a-week and weekends. I was lucky that my parents were willing to do it, especially considering I was only nine at the time. Thankfully it was all worth it in the end."

Joe's early footballing affections had been focused upon Haverfordwest County in the fledgling League of Wales although Swansea was his favourite professional club. "They were the nearest professional club to where I come from so I always had an interest in their fortunes. Swansea were in lower-league football at the time and, if I'm honest, it was only when I started playing for them that I developed a keen support for them.

"Haverfordwest was probably the most local and that would've been my team. I progressed into 11-a-side football at Swansea and eventually through to their senior team."

He was given his debut at the Liberty Stadium by ex-Watford midfielder Kenny Jackett, now manager of Wolves. But it was under the guidance of the two men now charged with overseeing Merseyside's footballing fortunes that Allen began to blossom.

> **"This season we have really started to see the benefits of the manager's ideas"**

The 2008/09 season was pivotal – a loan spell at Conference national side Wrexham provided experience of football lower down the ladder and when Roberto Martinez brought him back into the Swans' Championship squad, Joe achieved hero status among the 'Jack Army' by scoring his first goal in a 2-2 draw at Cardiff City.

In the summer of 2010, Wigan-bound Martinez was replaced by Brendan Rodgers and another chapter in Allen's career began. He had only turned 20 four months earlier but Joe became a pivotal figure, making 48 appearances as the Swans won promotion to the Premier League in the Northern Irishman's first season in charge.

A strong relationship between player and manager was forged and when Rodgers moved to Anfield, he went all out to ensure Allen was one of his first signings. At the time the boss told the media: "When you see this boy play, you'd think he was a European player. He is unique – a British player who doesn't give the ball away.

"He's incredible on the ball. His body-work and intelligence for a 22-year-old is frightening. You will see when he comes into this team the difference he can make. His game understanding is very good, and he is in love with the football. He wants the ball all the time, and has so much courage to get on the ball and play."

Allen has always embraced Rodgers' very particular footballing convictions and has enjoyed the evolution of his own game in the four years that the pair have worked together. "Every coach I have worked with has had an influence and I'd have to list them all if I was picking out people who have helped me along the way. They've all played their part.

"There have been changes, of course. Every manager has their own ways of doing things so he [Rodgers] helped take things to a new level for Swansea and to get them in the

Joe on Wales

"We all hoped that the last qualifying campaign was going to be the one. It came just too soon but we're confident of improving for the Euros. It was great news to see Chris Coleman commit his future and we're looking forward now. It will be a disappointment to watch the World Cup on TV and not be a part of it but the qualifiers for the Euros are now a massive aim (Wales take on Simon Mignolet's Belgium, plus Bosnia, Israel, Cyprus and Andorra). In some ways it is a similar situation to Liverpool in that we've got some young players hungry to achieve things in the squad. It's always a privilege to represent your country but it's my aim to feature heavily in some good times for Welsh football. Having players like Gareth Bale and Aaron Ramsey doing so well in club football and gaining so much experience will certainly be a positive for Welsh football and the Wales team moving forward."







Training at Melwood with Kolo and company

Premier League for the first time was an incredible feat. One of my proudest achievements as a player so far was to be part of Swansea's rise into the Premier League.

"I believe that this season we are starting to see the real benefits of the manager's ideas. If you ask any manager or player, they'd say that it takes a minimum of a season for ideas to really take effect. There was a big impact on the team last year but I think we always felt this season was where we would really start reaping the rewards and we've had some results that would back that up."

Much of the media spotlight has highlighted Liverpool's ruthlessness in attack, but Allen believes improved work without the ball has been as much of a factor behind the team's Premier League standing in the first two-thirds of the campaign.

"From the manager's point-of-view, a lot of people talk about the passing game that we like to employ with the ball at our feet. But certainly from the work that we put in day in, day out, it's also about when we haven't got the ball. I think that was one of the biggest things [Rodgers] talked about when he took over the club, and that's a way of playing that I've been brought up with. You can obviously see the benefits of it when you get it right – such as the game against Arsenal at Anfield.

"It was similar to the derby in that we really took the game to Everton from the kick-off. That's probably the best way to approach any match – to have an aggressive stance from start to finish. Some people might argue against that and be happy to shut up shop at 1-0 or 2-0. But I feel that if you try and do that you're always giving the opposition a chance to get back in the contest. With teams like Arsenal, for example, you don't want to give them any opportunity to do that.

"The best way to approach any game is to be aggressive from start to finish"

In many ways that was why it was such a perfect display. I don't think I've seen a better performance in 20 minutes of football from the first whistle.

"Our target now is to make sure we do that in every game. Obviously it's difficult to play to that level all the time but that's our dream and what we're aiming to do. How clinical we were with the ball and how many chances we created was one thing. But with Arsenal being such a great footballing team as well, the way we stopped them playing and won the ball back and pressed them hard was equally as pleasing."

As the season enters its latter stages, talk about what the Reds may or may not achieve will inevitably increase. Ever-articulate Allen smiles as he attempts to avoid trotting out platitudes in analysing the run-in.

"Taking one game at a time is a sporting cliche but really that's all you can do. It is a case of there being three points at stake in every game and so the matches are just as important as each other. You just have to make sure you are as determined and motivated for every game and I don't think that's a difficult thing for this team. We've got some real strong personalities and characters and some hungry players. There is experience but also some youth in our team who are really hungry to achieve things in their career so that stands us in good stead for the targets that we talked about at the start of the year.

"You don't want to get carried away but at the same time it's natural that you set yourself targets and dreams of things that you would really like to achieve, such as playing Champions League football."

Allen celebrates his 24th birthday in mid-March and points to the progress made by a cluster of young players in the squad as cause for optimism. A handful of the starting XI so rampant in that home win against Arsenal were 24 or under (Sturridge, Henderson, Coutinho, Flanagan and Sterling).

"If you look at the way players have developed in the last 18 months here, it's great to see and as a young player it gives you a massive confidence boost to know that you'll play. I know it can be difficult at other clubs, but it certainly breeds optimism into you and helps you make that step-up into being a regular in the first team. I'm not surprised at the advances that have been made. As players you are always confident that you can achieve the things you set out to do. You have to be.

"There are so many games throughout a season that there are always going to be setbacks along the way. But I think if you ask any player here, we all have 100 per cent faith in each other and in the staff behind us to achieve some great things. We are certainly here to bring success back to this club."

An LFC Welsh XI

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RAY LAMBERT | ERNEST PEAKE | BILLY MATTHEWS | JOEY JONES

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SOUND OF THE SEVENTIES

It's a favourite old tune that was first heard earlier this season among the travelling Kop whenever Liverpool were in town, and it's since been shaking the Anfield rafters too…

This season there's been a new song with an old flavour on the Kop and among the travelling Reds at away games – the words and tune from a seven-inch single from 1978, for those with a passing acquaintance with the days of vinyl records.

We Are Liverpool was one side of a double-A single released by Liverpool FC over 35 years ago, the other track being *Hail To The Kop*.

The single appeared on a label called Logo Records when the team were champions of Europe – the first-team squad is pictured on the cover with 'Old Big Ears' as well as the League championship trophy and Charity Shield (as it was still called then). The original melody came from a hit by pop group Boney M.

It wasn't the first single from LFC. A year earlier *We Can Do It* had been released, and the next decade brought *Liverpool (We're Never Gonna…)* followed by *Sitting On Top Of The World*, then the rousing *The Pride Of Merseyside* featuring the lyrics of Reds midfielder Craig Johnston and the vocals of Joe Fagin (another ditty embraced by

It's a song but also part of a line from a Shankly quote on the walls at Melwood



the Kop) and *The Anfield Rap* which peaked at no3 in the charts in May 1988. In the 1990s we had *Pass & Move (It's the Liverpool Groove)*, and four years ago a version of *The Fields of Anfield Road*.

We Are Liverpool, though, has an extra-special place in the hearts of the fans. After all, on the walls of Melwood's main entrance are inscribed these words from the great Bill Shankly: 'Above all, I would like to be remembered as a man who was selfless, who strove and worried so that others could share the glory, and who built up a family of people who could hold their heads up high and say…We are Liverpool'.

All together now: 'Poetry in motion, tra-la-la-la-la! Poetry in motion…"



Why a mature Steven Gerrard is a natural in defensive midfield

Didi HAMANN





Some people won't believe that I used to score a lot of goals when I was a kid. I even played upfront at one point. But every time I moved up to a higher level of football I found it more difficult to put the ball in the net. So the logical decision was to move a little further back into midfield.

Initially I was an all-round midfielder at Bayern Munich, sometimes featuring on the right. When another midfielder, Mario Basler, arrived for the 1996/97 season I became the one who sat back. From then on I stayed in that role. I think the defensive side came naturally to me. As players develop, they need to figure out how to get the best from themselves. That's what I did. There were lads more suited to going forward and creating chances. My strengths were different.

A successful team needs individuals who complement each other and provide a balance. You can't have everyone attacking. I was able to rein in that instinct because I got my satisfaction from winning games. If I did happen to score or create a goal it was a bonus.

The role of a defensive midfielder has become much talked about in recent times. Some people think it involves just standing in front of the centre-backs, but there is a lot more to it. Awareness, vision and great organisational skills are required. For example, if a full-back gets caught up the other end of the pitch you need to quickly spot it and move across to ensure you cover the space vacated. Or your partner in the centre of midfield might require a breather, so you have to push further forward for a few minutes until he recovers. That ensures the shape of the team remains the same. Such interchanging of positions needs good communication.

> **"A successful team needs the right balance"**

Not being in the right place can prove hugely costly against the best teams – even a yard or two can make a huge difference. During the second half of the 2005 Champions League final we tried to minimise the pockets of space Kaka had occupied in the first 45 minutes. By doing that we lessened Milan's threat in the second.

Having the necessary discipline is another part of the position. When you are losing and time is running out the crowd urges everyone forward. You can't think that way. If you do and the team gets caught out, a 1-0 deficit can quickly be doubled.

Adjusting to the deeper role was probably a challenge for Stevie [Gerrard] initially. For 16 years he's been one of the most effective offensive midfielders in Europe, creating and scoring in vital fixtures. Now in a funny way he has to forget about all that as his job is slightly different. I think playing as a sitting midfielder is something he has the skill to do for a number of years. It won't be a problem for someone of his ability.

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flanno is 'ere

Second chances do come along, the full-back tells Simon Hughes – but only if you listen, learn and work

photography by andrew powell

Whose are those, lad?" asks Jon Flanagan, just as this interview begins. "They're, er, Andrew's," I explain, knowing that the club photographer has been out of sight a matter of seconds.

The room is bare but there is a ledge high up on one wall. Flanagan leans forward, springs the set of keys from the table and jumps onto the cushioned seat he was previously sitting on. He is just tall enough to reach for the hiding place.

It is only later when my phone vibrates and the photographer's name flashes up that we establish the prank has been executed perfectly. The full-scale search of Melwood lasted 90 minutes plus injury-time.

This was a classic trick. Team-mates say it is classic Flanagan. The full-back celebrated his 21st birthday on 1 January. Yet his humour is well established inside the dressing-room. "I think it comes from the Academy," he reasons, Liverpool's youth base in Kirkby being a facility where, inside, wind-ups are as much a part of everyday life as running, passing footballs or breathing.

Flanagan says he's not necessarily a talker and certainly not a master of the one-liner. "I'm still getting my head around doing interviews." But he's always up to something. Like his football abilities, he is not to be underestimated within the confines of a training ground.

Less than four months ago Flanagan was faced with a grim prospect. He had not seen a minute of competitive action for Liverpool in nearly a year; had only featured on the subs' bench without getting on three times. He realised he might have to leave the club he grew up supporting. Last summer it was suggested he might go out on loan. "But we didn't have any clubs who wanted to take him," revealed Brendan Rodgers.

Since the start of November, Flanagan, when fully fit, has started every Liverpool game at the time of writing. This is a team playing the best football seen at Anfield in years. A Liverpool not just challenging for a place in the Champions League but in contention for the title as well. Such has been Flanagan's performance levels, it has been suggested that he is worthy of a place in England's World Cup squad for Brazil. His turnaround could be one of those Hollywood sporting parables.

"I'm living the dream now, I'm on top of the world. Being back, playing regularly – it's great for me. It couldn't have gone much better recently. But I've been here before, thinking things are going well. Suddenly you're out. I'm not counting my chickens. I want to stay here. At the start of the season



White Hot Lane: Jon scored a superb goal at Tottenham

I didn't expect this. It was make or break. But the second chance has come along and I'm really grateful for Brendan showing so much faith."

Those watching closely claim that Flanagan deserves all the credit. Rodgers says the player's development is solely down to the individual. "I hear people talking about what a good passer of the ball [Flanagan is]," the boss has said. "It's exercises and drills that have made him better and better. But they have to want to do it [in the first place] which is [most] important."

Inwardly Flanagan believes his emergence is down to a mix of good old-fashioned hard work and maturity. "I'm a bit older now and although I've got a long way to go, I feel more comfortable at the level I'm playing at. Sometimes you hear people say, 'You must have been staying behind all the time, doing more'. But a lot of the lads do that. I stay behind but it's not every day and I'm never alone. I'll have a go at anything: shooting, crossing, passing. I see it as part of my job to do that. I'm not trying to impress anybody apart from the manager and the coaches. I want to do it.

"The most important thing is: I've always tried to work to the same standard. Nothing has changed. All I could do was stay right mentally and remain focused. The manager has helped me a lot. He's like a teacher; you listen. Positionally and going forward there have been improvements. He's proven that if you take his advice on board and give everything, the opportunity will come. It's a positive message for all the lads, especially the ones younger than me. Every day it has to be 100 per cent. You have to take it seriously. You can't have regrets."

In the period where Flanagan's future was not certain, he drew on experience from his father, John, who was also at Liverpool before being released. A significant game for Flanno Snr was an FA Youth Cup tie with Oldham at Anfield in the 1984/85 season. He scored but a precocious young striker named Wayne Harrison starred for Oldham who won 4-3. Tom Saunders, Liverpool's legendary youth development officer, was impressed and Joe Royle, the Oldham boss at the time, recalls being locked inside the Boot Room afterwards: "They just wanted to talk about Wayne." Soon a deal worth £250,000 was agreed. Harrison, who passed away on Christmas Day 2013, played in John Flanagan's position. The latter moved onto Tranmere Rovers briefly then played four games for Southport in the Northern Premier League in September 1986. With that, his career in professional and semi-professional football was over.

"The manager is like a teacher – if you listen to him and take on board what he says and give everything, the opportunity will come"

Although he later became a successful entrepreneur in the city, a sense of what might have been remains. "He made it really clear to me that you only get one chance. Look at Liverpool's history. When you leave, only a few have had a chance to come back – and they've been successful ones. I'm not sure but I don't think a lad has been let go before returning for a big fee or anything like that.

"He's been with me since day one. He told me he didn't have the best of attitudes and that only leads to failure. It's easy to get disappointed and distracted. He wouldn't allow that to happen to me."

The Flanagans now live in Aigburth but until Jon was 13 the family home was only a Steven Gerrard pass away from Anfield in a terraced house on Utting Avenue, the busy throughfare which connects the area with Queens Drive, Liverpool's ring road. "If I wasn't going the game, every Saturday I'd see all the cars park up outside the house. Me ma wasn't happy at all with the litter. I did the whole mind-yer-car thing. Most weeks I'd get £2.50 and spend it on sweets. You could hear the roar of the crowd whenever a goal went in or a chance was missed. We'd play on the street and pretend the crowd was for us. It was great."

Flanagan was spotted by Liverpool scouts scoring goals for Country Park, a Sunday league team from Long Lane, which cuts through Walton, Fazakerley and part of Norris Green. He was a centre-forward and finished as leading marksman three seasons on the run. "I don't know what's happened since then," he jokes in relation to his position now.

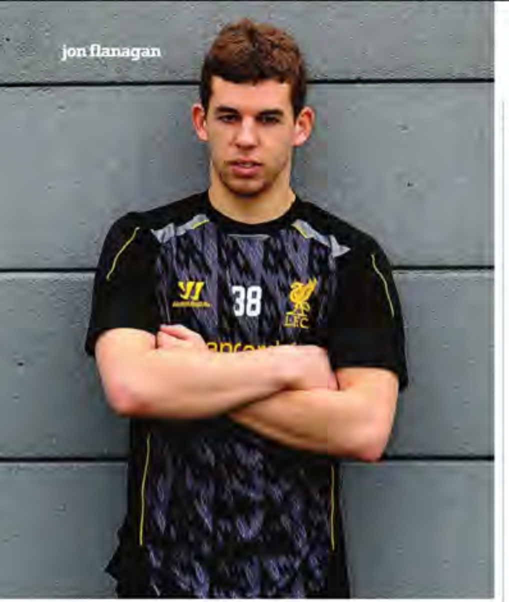
He's not alone on this front. Well before being recruited by Liverpool and ending up as a defender, Jamie Carragher broke a long-standing goalscoring record in the Bootle junior leagues. "I don't know what it is, I think everyone wants to be a forward when they're young don't they? It's only a bit later when you figure out where you're better suited. At Liverpool they moved me to right-wing then I was right-back."

Influential figures during his time at the Academy were Dave Shannon and Rodolfo Borrell, the Spaniard who left the club in November. "Dave took care of all the lads. I'm sure the ones who have been here for 10 years or so will say the same [Shannon departed in 2009]. He was an excellent coach who made me understand the levels of discipline you need to become a footballer. Rodolfo was different – very big on the technical side as well as tactics. I kicked on with him."



Training with Iago Aspas at Melwood





Flanno at Melwood, possibly with a set of keys in one hand

Flanagan concedes that he was not regarded as one of the most exciting talents at Kirkby. "I was one that always got through and progressed without making too much noise. I was a decent player but certainly no star. You'd hear people say about some lads: 'He's going to be in the first team.' But as time has gone on, they've fallen away. It proves that you don't just get by on your ability – you've got to do everything else right as well. You've got to have the right attitude.

"When I was in school [Saint Francis Xavier's in Woolton] a lot of my mates would go out on a Friday night and have a good time. It was stuff that I couldn't risk. My mind was always on football. I wasn't bad at school. I didn't get many qualifications but I got a few. But I was desperate to be a footballer. You've got to really want it."

Three years ago this month, Jon, aged 18, made his first-team debut for Liverpool in a 3-0 victory over Manchester City. He started on the opening day of the following season at home to Sunderland but admits responsibility for the goal that led to an equaliser. He did not feature again until March. Liverpool lost against Wigan at home and at Newcastle before drawing with Aston Villa. It was a difficult period. He was in the team to face soon-to-be relegated Blackburn Rovers – facing his uncle, Bradley Orr, also a right-back. Liverpool won 3-2 but Flanagan was taken off early on after back-up keeper Doni was sent off.

"The idea of not being a Liverpool player was not a good feeling because anywhere else is downwards in my eyes"

"That was a bad night for me. I didn't play well and I knew it. After that game I thought this could go downhill from here. I lost a bit of confidence. Time went on and I wasn't getting picked. I picked up a couple of injuries. The confidence goes a bit more. I really thought it wasn't going to work out – I'd have to find somewhere else to go. I've supported this club all my life. I only wanted to play for Liverpool and no-one else. But there was a time when I had to get my head round the idea that I might have to go somewhere else, on loan or permanently. The idea of not being a Liverpool player again did not seem right because anywhere else is downwards in my eyes.

"You have to pick yourself back up. A lot of football is in the mind. That's what it boils down to, really – believing in yourself. After the Sunderland and the Blackburn games maybe it wasn't there. Before, everything had gone so well. Then suddenly I wasn't hitting those levels. I'd imagine most young players go through this when they first start to play. It's great at first, then you hit a few challenges. It's the reality of being a footballer. You have to find a way to get through that period."

For 18 months, bar one appearance in the Europa League, he was restricted to Under-21 football. Yet he remained training with Liverpool's first team and regularly travelled to away games with the squad. Against Arsenal in November, everything changed.

"I remember walking into the Emirates before the match and speaking to Martin Kelly about the directors box, wondering what it was like to watch a match at such a good stadium. I figured out I'd be sitting there. Suddenly, I found out I was playing."

Despite a Liverpool defeat, Flanagan was selected again a few weeks later for the Goodison derby. After the 3-3 draw, he was given a round of applause for his performance by teammates in the dressing-room at Goodison Park. "I was made up with that," he says. "But I wish we'd won."

Flanagan scored his first goal for Liverpool in the 5-0 dismantling of Tottenham at the start of December. He's always there, celebrating in the seconds after someone else has breached the opposition defence. But this moment was his.

"When a goal goes in, something takes over. I go mad. Tottenham? That was a great day, that. I'll always remember it. To score my first goal in that way, I wasn't even sure whether it had gone in. Thinking back, the feeling sends a tingle down my spine. I thought it'd hit the bar and gone out. Then I saw the net bulging. It was a bit of a blur. You just see the crowd.

"There's a photo with everyone jumping on me. I'll keep that one. But it'd be nice to have a few more."

Can Jon play for Ireland?

"No – I'm not eligible to play for the Republic of Ireland. A few people have mentioned this to me. Obviously Flanagan is an Irish name but in my family it goes a few generations back. None of my parents or grandparents are Irish so there's no way I can play for them. All I'm focusing on now is staying in the Liverpool team. That's a big enough challenge."


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L.F.C.

HOME FROM HOME

Amanda's back! And the Liverpool Ladies midfielder resumes her diary by welcoming a new team-mate with a familiar accent



*No candy was consumed during the course of this interview!

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Transition periods are something that, as a footballer, I've grown very accustomed to. After all, living is just making transitions from day to day, making adjustments and tweaks and ultimately establishing how to go about your day with the utmost efficiency – not too different from a football match when you think about it. Yes, transitions are constant, but that doesn't make them any easier!

I've been back in Liverpool, my second home, for about three weeks now, and it seems that each year it gets a bit harder for me to peel myself away from my home in New York. But the best part about my transition this time around is that Liverpool is the first club (since university) where I am returning to the same team. I'd moved around three different teams before I came here, and the element of the 'unknown' was haunting me every time. This is what makes transitions scary!

Luckily for me, I was returning to a team filled with friendships that I'd developed the previous year; a house that albeit a bit old (and certainly with some quirks!) is still my home here; and a staff that takes ultimate care of our team. I'm lucky to be able to return to the situation I have in Liverpool, where as a team we truly never walk alone. I couldn't really imagine being anywhere else in the world.

The best part about transitions is that, while certain things may change, you can still hold onto many constants that make these changes worth it. My family and friends in New York are the best support system I could ever ask for. They have followed me all over the world, tracking my football, all the while encouraging me to be ambitious and chase whatever it is that I want in life. I must agree that being a female footballer isn't exactly 'the norm' in America (or anywhere else in the world for that matter), but knowing that I have seen progress in my own life through this sport has been a blessing.

I'm not the only one experiencing a transitionary period here in Liverpool, and it's comforting to know that my team-mates are by my side handling similar changes. After winning the league last year, the target-signs are certainly plastered to our backs at the moment, and the pressure to succeed is eminent. Our management has worked hard during the off-season to bring in new talent and add competition within the squad, which means new faces buzzing around the changing-room. The good news is that all of us want the same thing here: to win a championship and to play good football. When your lofty goals are all in sync as a unit, it makes coming together as a team with new faces much easier. The new players have blended in seamlessly with the group, and our pre-season is well under way.



Flashback to last season's glorious finale

While we haven't seen many changes within our staff, we are all still experiencing an actual physical transition, as we have moved from the Liverpool Academy to Halton Stadium (our home ground) as full-time footballers. The professional atmosphere that we now have at Halton is very conducive to developing a champion team. We have all of the resources that we need right at our fingertips: weight rooms, physio rooms, exercise bikes, a Liverpool FC-themed training room, offices, a kitchen… You name it, we've got it! We spend most of the day on the pitch, in meetings, or in the weights room, and we are spending a ton of time together. Luckily we all get along and have become friends in some way or another, all adding to the cohesiveness we are hoping to see when we get on the pitch for our season opener.

Coming to an unfamiliar place is much easier when you are greeted by familiar faces, or a familiar accent. Last year I arrived to an empty house, and was forced to try and make the transition on my own,





The new girl in her new kit

made easier by my team-mates whom I now consider my friends. Eventually, Whitney Engen came knocking on the door (a fellow American who I'd played with previously), and hearing another American accent made me exhale a sigh of relief! It feels like home when you can relate on another level with someone who is experiencing the same loss of home and distance from friends and family.

This year, a southern-sounding American magically appeared in our changing-room one day, and the first thing I said was: "Hey – you sound like me!" Libby Stout is an American goalkeeper from Kentucky who was one of our new signings. She's finding out quickly how friendly everyone on the team is, and how friendly faces really do make the transition to an unknown place a lot simpler. And very kindly she's let me quiz her for the magazine, appropriately at the Friends-themed Central Perk cafe on Liverpool's Hatton Garden…

A: What are you most looking forward to about Liverpool?

L: Aside from the football of course, I'd say exploring the city and the surrounding country. I have English heritage, so I am especially excited to learn more about the culture. Also, being in a place where I can speak the language and can understand the things happening around me.

A: How is this experience different from other countries you've played in? Are you enjoying not having a language barrier?

L: To be in a place where I can speak to people from day one is huge, something you take for granted. When you go to a new culture and can't even communicate simple things to people, it's a difficult thing to get around for someone like me – I'm very vocal, and as a keeper I need to be able to communicate to my defenders. It is much easier here without a language barrier.

A: You've played in France and Germany. How are you finding the city compared to other places you have lived?

L: I really like it here! I have been around the docks quite a bit. It's really neat because the towns that I've been in before have all been very small. They are really pretty places – don't get me wrong – but it's nice to be in a bigger area because it reminds me more of home. I do enjoy exploring a new place, and for an American coming over it's a great experience to be somewhere with so much history.

A: Do you have any hidden talents that we should know about?

L: I taught myself the guitar! My brother came home from college one day and decided to play the guitar, and I wanted to do whatever he was doing. I've been playing now for about seven years. He picked it up quicker than I did, but I enjoy it and can play pretty well. I also built my own guitar when I was at university. It was an assignment and we built it from scratch. I was a construction management major, so I enjoy building things.

A: What's been your most embarrassing moment here so far?

L: I don't get embarrassed very easily if at all, but there was a situation in the changing-room before training when I first arrived that was good for a laugh. I really don't like to be restricted when I am playing in goal – I like my clothes to fit me and not be loose so that I'm not hindered when I'm diving or hitting the ground. So I wear a size-small pants when I really should be wearing a size-large – I'm 5ft 10in – so they look a little bit more like capris than pants. The girls found it hilarious that my pants were so tight! But I wasn't embarrassed by it, that's just how I always wear them!

HERE WE GO

Liverpool Ladies begin their defence of their FA WSL title with a mouthwatering home clash against Manchester City Women at the Select Security Stadium in Halton.

Newly-promoted City have recruited a host of England internationals during the winter and are expected to be one of the main challengers for honours this season. The game will take place on Thursday 17 April (kick-off 7.45pm).

The Reds then travel to face boss Matt Beard's former side Chelsea on Sunday 20 April before the Continental Cup triple-header against Everton (home), Sunderland (home) and Manchester City (away). Then the re-start of the WSL in June sees Arsenal Ladies pay a visit on Saturday 28 June.

The season draws to a close with a repeat of last year's final game, as Bristol Academy visit on Sunday 12 October. For the full fixture list please visit www.liverpoolladiesfc.com.



100



40 EVERTON (WEMBLEY) WON 2-1

FA Cup semi-final 14 April 2012

A late Andy Carroll header secured Liverpool's place in the FA Cup final and broke Evertonian hearts in the first Merseyside derby under the new Wembley Arch. With Pepe Reina suspended and Everton boasting the better form going into this lunchtime kick-off, the Blues had good reason to believe they would avenge their Reds-inflicted cup final defeats of the 1980s. It seemed justified when Nikica Jelavic fired them into a first-half lead but as the game wore on and nerves became frayed it was Liverpool who rose to the occasion. Just after the hour-mark a misplaced back-pass by Sylvain Distin allowed Luis Suarez to race through and finish deftly with the outside of his right foot. Three minutes from the end Carroll rose majestically above the Everton defence to flick on Craig Bellamy's free-kick and send the red half of the city into raptures.

PART SEVEN: 40 TO 31 By Mark Platt

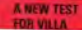
GREATEST GAMES

39 ASTON VILLA (H) WON 4-1

First Division 3 May 1980

On the last Saturday of the 1979/80 league season Anfield again resounded to the chant of 'Champions!' following a stylish demolition of Aston Villa. Two days after seeing their double dreams die at the hands of Arsenal in a marathon FA Cup semi-final, Liverpool bounced back to wrap up a 12th First Division title. Two points were required and any nerves were eased by a David Johnson goal after three minutes. Nearest rivals Manchester United were given a glimmer of hope when Israeli full-back Avi Cohen put the ball in his own net but he made amends after the break by restoring Liverpool's lead at the Kop end. As United slipped to defeat at Leeds, the Reds cantered to victory. A further strike from Johnson and own-goal by Noel Blake sparked more scenes of title celebration.

SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS



A NEW TEST FOR VILLA





38 OLYMPIACOS (H) WON 3-1

Champions League group phase 8 December 2004



Liverpool rolled back the years to qualify for the knockout phase of the Champions League. Needing to win by two goals and trailing 1-0 at the interval to a Rivaldo free-kick, a remarkable second-half comeback blew the roof off the Kop. Half-time sub Florent Sinama-Pongolle ignited the fightback with an equaliser. Liverpool laid siege to the Olympiacos goal but, as time ticked by, their efforts looked in vain. With ten minutes remaining fellow sub Neil Mellor hit an instinctive second, and it paved the way for skipper Steven Gerrard to take centre-stage. Four minutes were left on the clock when his rasping half-volley ensured progress. You'll find the famous commentary elsewhere in this issue.





WHATEVER THE OCCASION...
celebrate
AT ANFIELD
Anfield has played host to an incredible number of fantastic occasions over the years,not only on the pitch but also in our range of Hospitality Rooms.
We have a range of packages including food, drinks and disco - or you can choose to arrange your own entertainment.
If you've got something to celebrate do it in style at Anfield, the home of Liverpool Football Club.
L.F.C.
Golden Wedding Anniversary

37 BAYERN MUNICH (A) DREW 1-1

European Cup semi-final second leg 8 April 1981



So confident were Bayern of reaching the Paris final that directions to the French capital were handed out to home fans on their way into Munich's Olympic Stadium. Following the goalless first leg at Anfield their skipper Paul Breitner had dismissed Liverpool's chances. In doing so he wrote Bob Paisley's pre-match team-talk and, inspired by those taunts, an injury-hit Liverpool surprised the Germans. Rookie winger Howard Gayle, an early replacement for the limping Dalglish, ran the Bayern defence ragged. By the time he was himself subbed late in the second half, Liverpool were in the ascendancy. A Ray Kennedy strike seven minutes from time confirmed their superiority on the night and not even a late reply from Rummenigge could deny them a final date with Real Madrid.



BORUSSIA M'GLADBACH (A) LOST 0-2

UEFA Cup final second leg 23 May 1973

Liverpool lost the battle but won the war as they survived a ferocious German bombardment to get their hands on a first European trophy. With a three-goal first-leg lead to defend, the Reds were always in the driving seat but found themselves pinned back from the start of a frenzied first-half. A Jupp Heynckes double reduced the deficit and at one stage Liverpool looked on the brink of collapse. The threat of more goals after the break was a realistic one, but fortified by a Shankly call-to-arms the Reds closed ranks. Borussia, having give so much in the first 45 minutes, eventually tired and Liverpool even had a few chances of their own. It was still nerve-racking at times and the final whistle was greeted with widespread relief by the visitors.

36 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (H) WON 3-1

First Division 15 May 1982

A now familiar scene played out at Anfield at the end of a campaign that at one stage had plumbed unchartered depths. On Boxing Day the Reds languished in mid-table, but following an irresistible unbeaten run the destiny of the championship was in their hands heading into this final home fixture. A 48,000 crowd saw their heroes fall behind to a spectacular first-half strike from Glenn Hoddle, but there was never any panic. On his first return to the club since joining Spurs, Ray Clemence had received a huge ovation from the Kop but his former team-mates showed no mercy as they wrapped up the title in style. A Mark Lawrenson header drew the Reds level and minutes later Kenny Dalglish put them ahead before Ronnie Whelan added the finishing touch to an exhilarating second-half performance.









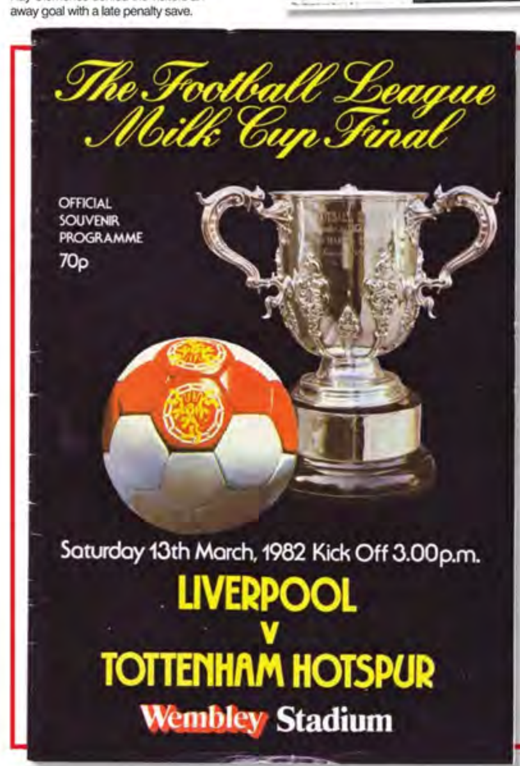


34 BORUSSIA M'GLADBACH (H) WON 3-0

UEFA Cup final first leg 10 May 1973

Twenty-four hours after the first meeting had been abandoned due to a waterlogged pitch a joyous Anfield wallowed in Euro glory as the emerging force in West German football – Gunter Netzer, Bertie Vogts and all – were swamped by a red tide. Liverpool's performance was inspired by a late tactical switch that saw the towering John Toshack restored to the starting XI at the expense of the more diminutive Brian Hall. The idea was to exploit an aerial weakness Shankly had spotted in the Borussia defence and it worked a treat as the Welshman twice teed up Kevin Keegan to score in the first half. In between his brace Keegan also missed a penalty but a third goal did arrive just after the hour via the head of Larry Lloyd. To cap it all Ray Clemence denied the visitors an away goal with a late penalty save.

Wonderbar–Keegan sends 'em Moenchen sad back!



33 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (WEMBLEY) WON 3-1

Milk Cup final 13 March 1982

Ronnie Whelan was christened 'The Milk Cup Kid' after he turned this final on its head and set Liverpool on the way to a second successive triumph in the competition. Spurs had never lost a Wembley cup final and when Steve Archibald put them ahead it looked like they were going to preserve that record. Three minutes remained when 20-year-old Whelan handed the Reds a lifeline with a dramatic equaliser. It was enough to send the game into extra-time and nine minutes from time the young Irishman struck again to send the travelling Liverpudlians wild. Ian Rush added a late third.



WONDER BOYS WALK TALL IN TEAM TRIUMPH



CHELSEA (H)
WON 2-1
First Division 30 April 1966

On the famous old footage a portly policeman lets out a hearty laugh as a packed Kop erupts in ecstasy. It's the last day of April 1966. The sun is shining on what is the hottest day of the year so far and there's a feel-good factor around Anfield. A record-equalling seventh League championship is almost in the bag. In what was Liverpool's last home fixture of the season, just one more win was required to clinch the First Division title. Tommy Docherty's Chelsea formed a guard of honour to welcome the champions-elect onto the pitch and a capacity crowd watched on as a second-half double from (Sir) Roger Hunt sealed a 2-1 success that brought with it the ultimate prize in English football. It was the second title in three years for Bill Shankly's team and the perfect follow up to a long-awaited first FA Cup success.



Chairman Sidney Reakes makes no reservations when he labels Liverpool–

FINEST TEAM IN BRITAIN!

Why Anfield is bursting at the seams

Bill Shankly tells his story

Champions of Europe – target for next season

RESULTS, SCORERS, CROWDS

Stepping stones to their goal

32



31 EVERTON (H)
WON 7-4
First Division 11 February 1933

The highest-scoring Merseyside derby of all time went Liverpool's way in an astonishing 11-goal thriller. The Reds went into the game against the reigning champions as underdogs, having not beaten the Blues in six years and trailing them by two places in the table. The early exchanges stayed true to the formbook and Dean gave the visitors the lead after eight minutes. The Reds response was spectacular and they hit back with first-half goals from Barton, Morrison and Hanson. Everton narrowed the advantage just before the break but any hopes of a comeback were dispelled when Taylor and Barton again restored clear distance. The goals were coming so thick and fast that it was difficult to keep tally and Dean netted another only for Roberts to promptly do likewise at the opposite end. Barton then completed his hat-trick and Everton bagged a late consolation to complete the scoring. The spellbound crowd finally came up for air and Daily Post reporter 'Stork' declared that he'd never seen a more thrilling game.

LIVERPOOL POST AN

SPIRIT OF YOUTH PREVAILS

BARTON'S GOALS IN DASHING RAIDS

HOW ANFIELD TEAM UPSET EVERTON

NEXT MONTH: PART EIGHT



"I wanted to play passing football at speed – it frightened the opposition"

Roy Evans, who was appointed Liverpool manager two decades ago, recounts those heady days to Simon Hughes



Collymore, McManaman and Fowler in Dec 1996

Having joined Liverpool's coaching staff in 1974, was it always your ambition to become Liverpool manager?

First of all, I never wanted to be a coach. I'd played a few games for Liverpool's first team but it was only three times a season. I was 26. Bill Shankly had just retired and Bob Paisley and Joe Fagan approached me, asking whether I wanted to join the staff. "No way," I told them. I felt like I had plenty of games left. It became a bit of a myth that I had problems with injuries. I just wasn't playing much because there were better options than me. In the end Bob and Joe nagged for a while. They wanted me to take charge of the reserve team. "Why not take the chance?" they kept asking. After a lot of persuasion, I took it. It wasn't necessarily taught at Liverpool but in coaching terms people weren't encouraged to be individually ambitious. There were no careerists. You had a job, you did it. You didn't look for the next guy's job. If it came



along, then great. As time went on, I progressed. I became first-team coach, running on the pitch with the sponge. Then I became assistant under Graeme [Souness]. When Graeme left, I was offered the [manager's] job by the chairman at his house and I'd accepted it within an hour. It was all done in a day. I didn't ask 'how much' or anything like that. Until that point I'd never really considered it. But I realised too that I had a lot of experience having worked under some great people. I figured it was my turn.

How did you deal with the transition between being a player and a coach?

Being so young [as reserve-team boss] sometimes I had to deal with players that were older than me – players that had been better at football. Culturally though if you didn't play for the first team, you played for the reserves. It was the accepted norm. We also had a very strong team – we played winning football and aimed to

"Perhaps one regret was not buying any players in my first six months as manager"



The new boss with his players, February 1994

win the league every year. The more experienced lads knew that coming with us, they weren't playing with a bunch of nuggets. We really wanted it. Shanks had instilled the idea that the second best team in Liverpool was Liverpool reserves and not Everton. It resulted in reserve matches being important. If a player wasn't in the first team, his only way back was by playing well for the reserves. I think every player treated the reserve matches seriously. At the end of the day they were pulling on the red shirt of Liverpool. It mattered.

You managed a successful reserves team when the first XI was also winning everything. How did that affect the progress of your players?

Well the first team rarely changed. The success was relentless. It meant that young lads would have to wait longer for their opportunity. They were sensible enough to realise that at the club existed to win trophies. Liverpool always went with their best team. All I could ask the boys was to give themselves the best chance of getting in there – no excuses or regrets. There were a lot of good players that never got a chance. Others only played a couple of games. Kevin Kewley was an example of that. He and Sammy Lee came to the club at a similar time. In the early days I pushed Kevin more than Sammy. Bob preferred Sammy and the rest is history. Colin Russell, Alan Harper and Kevin Sheedy fall into the same category as Kevin [Kewley]. All tremendous players with great ability that didn't get as many chances as they should have because of circumstance. Dealing with expectations and disappointments, I think it helped my man-management skills in the long-term.





Did you feel the experience of running a successful reserve team would help you in charge of the first team?

Of course. You begin to have doubts the first time that you get beaten. Only then do you realise what it means to so many people. You take the job, you think: this is great – I'm managing Liverpool, the club I love. I was a supporter myself. I'm not sure that's a great thing because your heart rules your head. You're winning, and life is rosy. When you lose, you realise how it can spoil a person's day or week. That's the difficult part. It hit me hard. You obviously need to have some sort of social life yourself. If you haven't seen the wife all week – which was regularly the case – you'd go out for a meal on a Saturday night. It wasn't nice whenever we lost. You felt like you'd let people down, there was a horrible feeling deep in your stomach. You didn't want to be there. There was a level of embarrassment to it. Whenever you got beat, it felt like there were no positives. I'm certain it hurts even more when you support the team you're managing. It hits you two ways. Like any person, you take a pride in your job but it also hits you as a fan. It's a double whammy. The key is, not showing any of this to the players.



After being appointed in 1994, where did you see Liverpool's strengths and weaknesses?

It wasn't the greatest squad in the Premier League at that moment. But I didn't think it was the best team around when Kenny [Dalglish] left either. Perhaps one regret for me was not buying any new players in that early period. I waited around six months or so before buying anyone. There had been so many changes under Graeme that I wanted things to settle down and give everyone a chance to prove themselves. Maybe that was the wrong thing to do, maybe it was a bit of naivety. If I had my time again I probably would have started the rebuilding process earlier, enabling us to hit the ground running the next season.

You inherited a lot of exciting young players with big reputations, however...

The first one that springs to mind is Robbie Fowler. I'd known about Robbie for a long time. He was 11 years old when I first saw him, playing for Liverpool Schoolboys in a game at Burscough against my lad who was in goal for Ormskirk. Robbie was two years younger but stuck four past him. Afterwards I checked that Liverpool had already signed him and fortunately we had. I felt lucky that we had strikers that brought different things to the table. They were all different. Robbie was a natural finisher. He was the man on the spot. At his peak, Rushie had pace – he'd run past people or off the shoulder and get behind defences. Rushie was our best defender in many ways, closing people down. Maybe Robbie didn't have great pace but upstairs he had it going on. Then Michael [Owen] came into the situation. Nobody could deal with his speed. It was unreal. He gets a lot of criticism now, Michael – a bit like Steve McManaman. But both players gave the club nearly a decade of service. Joining Manchester United wasn't the best thing to do but please don't forget how brilliant he [Owen] was.





How would you describe your approach to management?
I wouldn't over-coach. It was more guidance, bits of advice every now and then. I'm a great believer in encouragement. I hear people saying that Fergie liked throwing cups but he probably only did that once every blue moon to shake things up. You get more out of people in any job in any walk of life if you say, "Hey – good job, you did well today." You have to treat people fairly and as human beings first. On the flip side of that, when things aren't right you have to let players know too. You have to go for them no matter how important they are to the team. It doesn't matter if you're Kenny Dalglish or a young lad – you have to meet the level. If you let a bad performance slip and say nothing, it's an unhealthy recipe.

Observers saw your appointment as a return to traditional Liverpool values. What is your understanding of 'the Liverpool way'?
Simplicity. Players need to enjoy what they're doing in the long-term. Okay, in the short-term there would be sacrifices in terms of fitness but you'd have to look forward to your work. Usually one unit of a training session would involve running and the rest would be with the ball. Sessions would be longer earlier in the week then shorter but more intense as you get closer to the match. The emphasis was always on the ball. We'd mix the rules up. The most important thing was to get a good tempo. There's nothing worse than watching a game where everything is slow. If you play passing football at speed, it frightens the opposition. You can't play against it. So the intensity of training was important. I wanted it to be intense so the players didn't have to flick a switch on the Saturday to get it right.

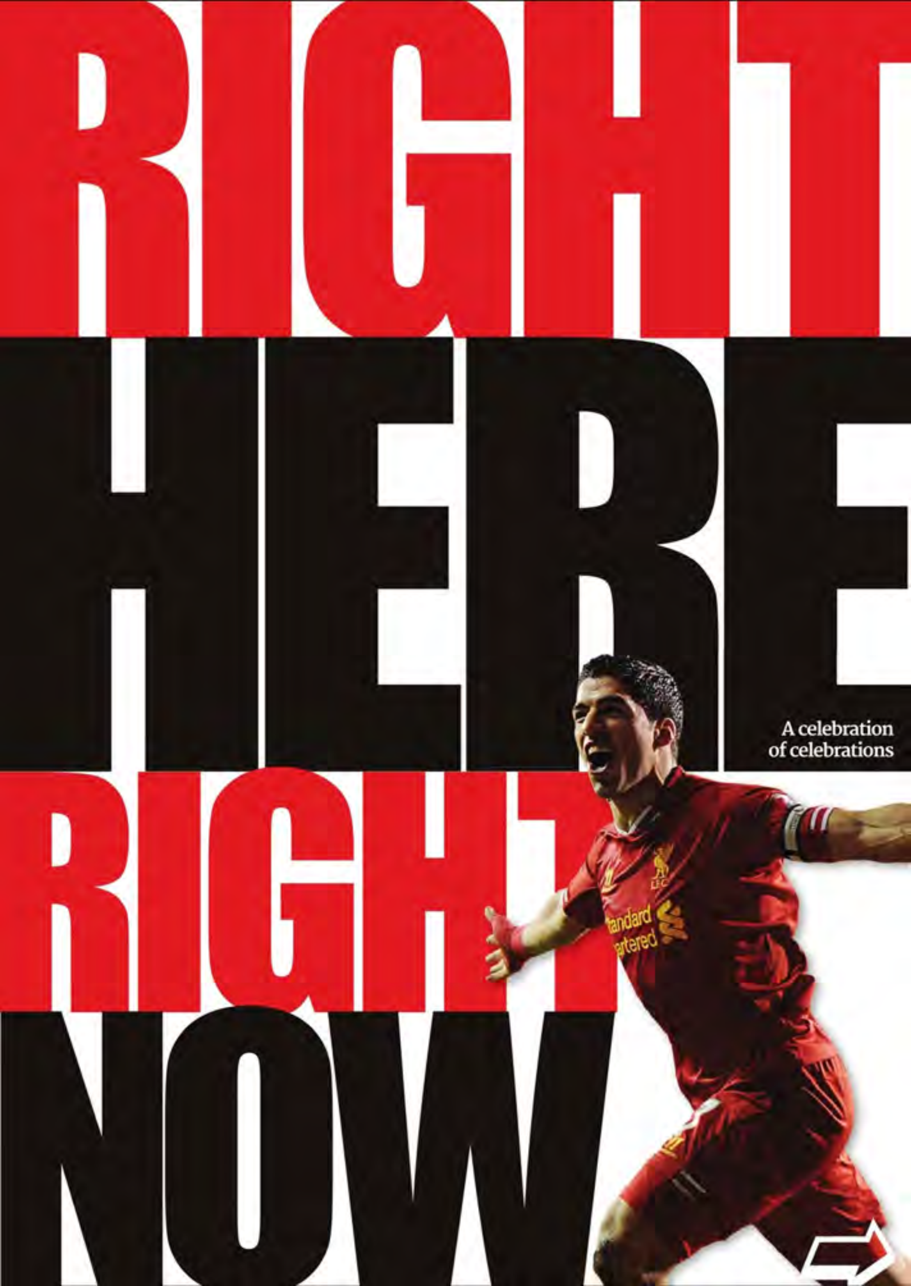
"The title is always the aim – you have to believe it is achievable"

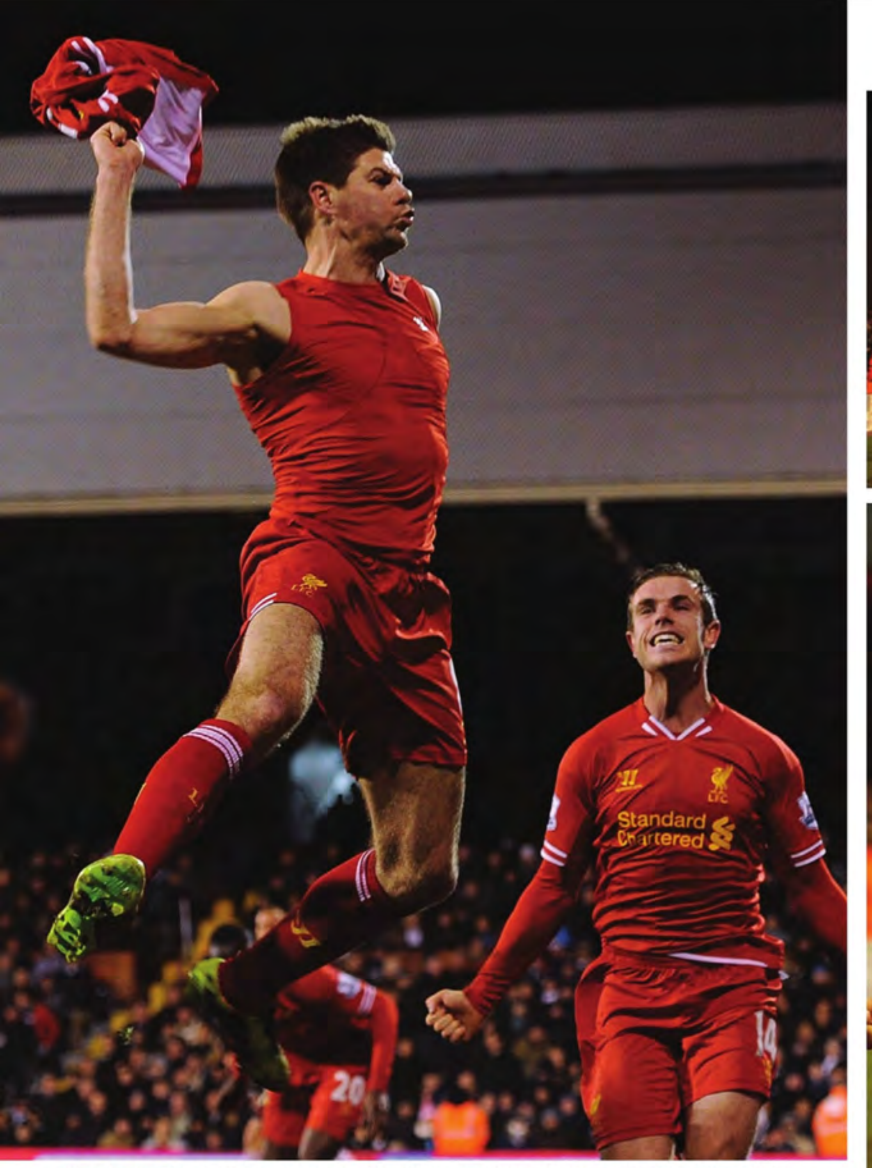
Towards the end of your first full season in charge, Liverpool beat Bolton in the League Cup final [April 1995]. How far away did you think the team was from winning a league title?
There is a big difference between a cup and the title. To win the title, you need to have everything: talent, determination, consistency, a good manager and a bit of luck. I think we had a bit of all those things but they never quite came together at the same time. It was an issue that followed me all the way through my time in charge at Liverpool. We always lacked that little something that, say, United had. After the League Cup I sensed we were still some distance away from the title. But as any Liverpool manager should tell you, the title is always the aim. You have to believe it is achievable. I felt the team needed a bit more experience of winning in pressure situations, and probably losing as well because you learn a lot in defeat. The most important thing is how to bounce back. I believed the team needed another 18 months or so together and it proved to be true because in the 1996/97 season we went really close.



Coca-Cola Cup winners in 1995




RIGHT
HERE
RIGHT
NOW
A celebration of celebrations



Clockwise from this page: Cometh the hour, cometh the captain… The skipper has just kept his cool to slot home a dramatic late penalty and secure a 3-2 win over Fulham at Craven Cottage; all season long club photographers John and Andrew Powell have been in the perfect positions at Anfield to capture goals and celebrations – here it's Luis Suarez sliding towards the lens after he'd run from his own half to slot home Liverpool's fourth goal in front of the Kop in the Merseyside derby.


F.C.


Standard
Chartered



Villa thriller: Liverpool's first three league games of 2013/14 had a perfect symmetry, ending in 1-0 wins thanks to a Daniel Sturridge goal. Here he share his delight with Lucas after sinking Aston Villa in match two.


L.F.C.



Earning their Spurs: the Reds have scored four or more goals in a game more times than ever before in a Premier League season (nine after the Swansea win on 23 Feb) – including a 5-0 win at Tottenham that featured Jon Flanagan's first senior strike.





Clockwise from top: Sending out an SAS… LFC's front pairing have been in formidable form this season – by the end of February the dynamic duo had scored 41 Premier League goals between them from 40 starts, and here they're shown celebrating in the high-scoring win at Stoke City; Reds fans just can't get enough of their no7 as he wheels away in delight after another sensational strike, this time against Crystal Palace; Daniel Sturridge's signature celebration has had plenty of outings.


SUAREZ
7



From top: Raheem is all smiles after netting his second goal and his side's fifth as they ruthlessly shoot down the Gunners' challenge at Anfield in February; We are Liverpool! The sense of team spirit shines through in this image taken at the Britannia Stadium in January – Aly Cissokho, Raheem Sterling, Steven Gerarrd, Philippe Coutinho, Lucas Leiva, Jordan Henderson and Luis Suarez celebrate another strike in the eight-goal epic in the Potteries.



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Let your voice be heard...



liverpoolfc.com/thekop



SAID & DONE

The commentary that accompanied some of LFC's finest moments

It's Kennedy. And what it means, if you dare watch, is that if Alan Kennedy, who has already scored a winner in a European Cup final in Paris in 1981 against Real Madrid. If he scores it's all over and Liverpool have won. If he misses we go on. I am right there Ian aren't I? At this stage of the game the mathematics are worrying me...

LIVERPOOL ARE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS!

What joy. Alan Kennedy's penalty goal leaves Rome distraught and Merseyside jubilant!

Rome, 1984, the European Cup final. One-each after extra-time. Penalties. No wonder ITV's Brian Moore had to check with LFC legend Ian St John during the nerve-racking shoot-out. Steve Nicol blazed the first spot-kick over the bar. Di Bartolomei converted for Roma. So did Phil Neal. Then Conti cleared the crossbar and Souness fired home. Righetti made it 2-2 before Rush put the Reds back in front. As Brucie's legs wobbled, Graziani hit the bar – and Kennedy clinched it.

BARNES, RUSH, BARNES, STILL JOHN BARNES... COLLYMORE CLOSING INNNNN! LIVERPOOL LEAD IN STOPPAGE TIME!

The winner in arguably Anfield's greatest-ever league game was immortalised by Martin Tyler on Sky Sports. In the dying seconds between Liverpool and Newcastle United in April 1996, and the score at a breathless 3-3, Stan Collymore fired home from the edge of the six-yard box after great work through the middle by John Barnes.

Oohhhhhh you beauty! *WHAT A HIT SON! WHAT A HIT!*

Ahead of the vital Champions League group match with Olympiacos at Anfield, skipper Steven Gerrard admitted he could hardly bear the prospect of waking up the next morning out of Europe's premier competition and instead in the UEFA Cup. Fittingly it was his thumping goal which made it 3-1 and secured a rather eventful stay in the Champions League.

Oh yes!& what a delighted scorer – it's *Tommy Smith!*

Barry Davies was in the BBC commentary box for Liverpool's first European Cup triumph, in Rome in 1977. The showdown with Borussia Moenchengladbach was meant to be Tommy Smith's last game, as he'd already announced his intention to retire. This fine header from a Heighway corner put the Reds back in front, and after the match the 32-year-old changed his mind and appeared another 34 times the following season.

THE FOURTH OFFICIAL HAS GOT THE BOARD. RIISE'S CROSS, OH IT'S FALLEN...

GERRAAAARRRDDD!

HE'S GOT IT! OH STEVEN GERRARD, JUST WHEN HE LOOKED INJURED AND OUT OF IT, HAS EQUALISED FOR LIVERPOOL WITH 90 MINUTES GONE.

IT'S 3-3 IN SURELY THE BEST CUP FINAL OF MODERN TIMES

John Motson wins for best description of the skipper's late, late equaliser in the 2006 FA Cup final, the last to be held at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium. The half-volley made it 3-3 and sent the game into extra-time and ultimately penalties. Steven has since admitted that the cramp from which he was suffering persuaded him to hit it first time rather than take a touch.

AND DALGLISH IS IN HERE...

YES!

Simple stuff from Match of the Day's John Motson at Stamford Bridge in May 1986. In his first season as player-manager Kenny Dalglish's side needed victory over Chelsea on the last day to pip Everton to the title. Despite the determined efforts of the hosts and a patchy pitch and blustery conditions, it was the 35-year-old who made history, superbly taking the ball on his chest and dispatching a controlled volley beyond keeper Tony Godden.

TOSHACK KEEGAN ONE-NIL

You can just hear it, can't you? David Coleman's condensed, emphatic commentary came 20 minutes into the first leg of the 1973 UEFA Cup final v Borussia Moenchengladbach, which had been postponed the previous evening due to torrential rain. Bill Shankly used the opportunity to change his starting line-up, bringing in John Toshack to replace Brian Hall, and the change proved inspired as the Welsh striker connected with Chris Lawler's cross to tee up Kevin Keegan's diving header. It finished 3-0.

Le Tallec to Luis Garcia, tries his luck...

OH WHAT A GOAL! WHAT A GOAL! WHAT A NIGHT!

Luis Garcia makes it 2-0 to Liverpool, stunning volley

Clive Tyldesley, the voice of ITV's Champions League coverage, describes the volley by Luis Garcia against Juventus in the first leg of the quarter-final on the road to Istanbul. A Liverpool line-up including Scott Carson, Anthony Le Tallec and Igor Biscan were given little chance against a Juve side containing the considerable talents of Buffon, Cannavaro, Thuram, Nedved, Del Piero and Ibrahimovic. But the visitors were stunned by Sami Hyypia's opener then Garcia's moment of magic.

Goals pay the rent – and Keegan does his share

The BBC's David Coleman in top form throughout the 1974 FA Cup final, and here describing Kevin Keegan's opener in the 3-0 win over Newcastle. The no7 netted twice either side of a Heighway goal, his first volleyed home from the edge of the box.

Shevchenko, scored the winner two years ago. He's up against Dudek. Will he hand Liverpool the European Cup?

YEEEESSSSSSSSSSSSS!!!

Istanbul. Like every Kopite on the night of May 25, 2005 the Radio City commentary team of Steve Hothersall and John Aldridge were drained by the rollercoaster ride at the Ataturk Stadium. In the penalty shoot-out former Reds striker Aldo, well-known and much-loved for his passionate and partisan match analysis, managed to hold things together long enough before Milan's Andriy Shevchenko stepped up and saw his effort stopped by goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek. Cue pandemonium.


Carlsberg
STANNO

Return to Sander

Fifteen years ago Sander Westerveld signed for Liverpool. He re-lives cup finals in Cardiff, phone calls from David Moyes, and favours for Clarence Seedorf. Words by Glenn Price

To this day Sander Westerveld remains the only goalkeeper to have played for both Merseyside clubs. After two memorable seasons with the Reds from 1999 to 2001, he joined Everton on an emergency loan in 2006.

The likeable Dutchman, now 39, says: "Sometimes it's standard practice for people who join Liverpool to say they are fan, but I actually was! So it was always my dream to play for them and of course when it happened I was over the moon. I had great success. We made history winning five trophies in a season [League Cup, FA Cup, UEFA Cup, Community Shield and European Super Cup], something which was a really difficult thing to do for a club who hadn't won anything for a while."

> "The size of the fee that Liverpool paid didn't bother me – I saw it as a compliment"

At the time he was Britain's most expensive keeper – the reported fee was £4 million – but he didn't feel any added pressure. "I read about it and saw it as a compliment that a team was willing to spend so much money because they think you're so good. In my first year it helped me that we had the best defence in the league, as we conceded the least amount of goals. It was a good start and then in my second season we had all that success, so I never really felt that pressure.

"At that moment we had a team that was just getting better and better every year and it's always easier to play with quality players around you. The defence was perfect and Sami Hyypia was the captain of the team and Jamie Carragher had just become a regular.

His stint between the Anfield sticks, though, turned out to be short and sweet. When the club signed fellow goalkeepers Jerzy Dudek and Chris Kirkland on the same day, Sander knew it was time to go – with Spain his destination. "It was very disappointing leaving Liverpool, especially in the manner I left. Everyone knows the story that they only wanted to buy one [keeper] but ended up with two.



"After one of the best games I played for the club, the 2-1 win over Manchester United in the Community Shield, everything was looking positive. But there were rumours going around that the club was looking for a new goalkeeper. And then came the famous Bolton game when I made that mistake [a late Dean Holdsworth shot squirmed through his fingers to win the game for Wanderers in August 2001].

"Obviously it was disappointing to leave your dream club, but I just felt Real Sociedad was an escape for me. A few years later directors from



the club apologised to me for the way things worked out. Liverpool was the highlight of my career and I enjoyed it from the first day until the last."

His favourite LFC moment? "Difficult to say but maybe making that penalty save in the Worthington Cup final against Birmingham, against Andy Johnson I think. As a keeper it's always good in a shoot-out and I felt like I literally won the cup saving that penalty. Lifting the FA Cup [three months later] was also special. Everybody in the world knows it's one of the most important cups in the game, so that was a highlight too."

Throughout his playing career Sander was noted for his long-kicking ability. "That was something I had from when I was younger. I've still got a video from when I was 12 and I don't know why I could do it. I never used to train more or do extra weights on my legs to kick the ball harder – it's just something I kept till the end of my career. Everywhere I went I was known as the player who could kick the farthest. There were even bookies who would lay odds on me scoring a goal for Liverpool!

"I'm currently a goalkeeper coach and it's actually very difficult to teach. It's something I did with no special technique, I never used to think about it. I used to work on it in training but only like every other goalkeeper does."

After his spell in Spain's Basque Country with Sociedad, Sander found himself back in the English Premier League, first with Portsmouth then at Goodison Park. "It was a very strange situation. I was playing for Portsmouth and things weren't working out at the time under Harry Redknapp. Then I got a phone call when I was in the car on the way to watch Chelsea v Barcelona, I remember. David Moyes rang me and asked me to play and help out. Honestly, it was only until I hung up that I realised that it was Everton.



With the boss, Thommo, and fellow new boys Meijer, Smicer, Hyypia and Henchoz in 1999

"I'm proud to still be the only keeper to play for both Liverpool and Everton"



Shoot-out hero in the Worthington Cup final

"Quite a few of my friends in Liverpool are Everton supporters, so I've always had a good connection there. Man United is the one where the two sets of fans dislike each other most, but the Merseyside derby has a good atmosphere and fans are able to sit next to each other with an Everton and Liverpool shirt. It's brilliant.

"I was a bit worried because you never know what the fans might say or think. But I can honestly say that the move was one of the highlights of my career because of the affection from the people, even though I only played twice. From the first day the players and staff were great.

"I wanted to stay longer and had the option to, but at the time my wife was pregnant in Portsmouth and I was flying back and forth so it was difficult. But I'm proud that I'm still the only keeper so far to have played for Liverpool and Everton."

Sander is now in South Africa. How did he wind up there? "From my time at Liverpool and Real Sociedad, I had problems with my knee which meant I couldn't play at the highest level anymore. I retired four years ago, but Clarence Seedorf, a friend of mine, bought a club in Italy and asked me to play for his side, so I ended up at Monza for two years.

"I then retired again and finally said that was enough! But Ajax Cape Town phoned me up with an offer and it sounded like a great adventure. I've always wanted go to the United States or Japan just for the adventure, but I'm really enjoying it out here – so much so that I actually retired last season and decided to stay another year after the club asked me to be a goalkeeping coach.

"I've had other coaching offers. I speak Spanish, Italian, German, Dutch and English, and all of my friends are starting to get jobs in coaching now – Sami Hyypia at Leverkusen and Markus Babbel and Christian Ziege in Germany, so they're offering opportunities. But it's not something I want to do for the rest of my life. I've got other options. Players' agents can have a bit of a reputation, but with my experience I think I can look after a player's interests instead of the financial side of things.

"I think with the languages I speak and my experience, I can really help players. So that's what I'm aiming to do in the future."


Carlsberg

THE EX FACTOR

A former Reds XI now playing in the Championship



DANIEL AYALA
Middlesbrough



Boro are targeting a late play-off push under Spaniard Aitor Karanka, who was formerly assistant-manager to Jose Mourinho at Real Madrid. Ayala, once LFC's reserve-team player of the year, joined Boro on a permanent basis from Nottingham Forest in January after a successful loan.

CHRIS KIRKLAND
Sheffield Wednesday

The Owls are looking to avoid the drop after appointing ex-Aston Villa defender Stuart Gray as manager in January. Keeper Kirkland moved to Hillsborough in the summer of 2012 after a spell at Wigan.





STEPHEN WARNOCK
Leeds United

The full-back joined Leeds in January 2013 and hopes to help the Elland Road side make a late push to put themselves in the hunt for a play-off place. When not on duty with the Yorkshire club, he makes guest appearances on LFC TV.



YOSSI BENAYOUN
QPR

The Israeli international teamed up with Harry Redknapp in December as the Hoops boss looked to add experience to his promotion-chasers. As things stand, QPR look well-placed to make an immediate return to the Premier League.



PAUL KONCHESKY
Leicester City
The experienced left-back was brought to Anfield by Roy Hodgson in 2010. He failed to shine in a red shirt but has been a regular in Leicester's push for promotion under Nigel Pearson as the Foxes look set to return to the Premier League for the first time in a decade.



DANNY GUTHRIE
Reading
Guthrie's dynamic midfield displays for the Royals have helped propel them into a strong play-off position or better. The man with the mohawk joined from Newcastle in 2012.

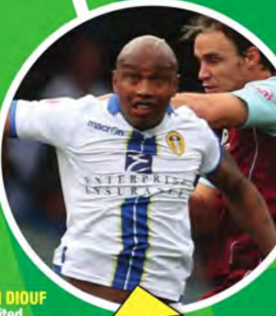


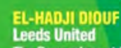
JAY SPEARING
Bolton Wanderers
It has been a tough season for Bolton with Dougie Freedman's side just above the drop zone. But Jay has been one of their most consistent performers since turning a loan deal into a permanent move last summer.

ADAM MORGAN
Yeovil Town
The young striker moved to Huish Park on a permanent bass in January after a loan spell with the Somerset side. Glovers boss Gary Johnson is hoping the ex-Academy forward can score the goals to lift his side away from the bottom of the table.



NATHAN ECCLESTON
Blackpool
The Seasiders relieved ex-Reds midfielder Paul Ince of his managerial duties in January, and the going has been tough. Eccleston has figured regularly under caretaker boss Barry Ferguson after a loan spell at Carlisle earlier in the season.





PAUL ANDERSON
Ipswich Town
The winger signed a two-year contract with the Tractor Boys in the summer and has been a regular in Mick McCarthy's team as they aim to cement a place in the play-offs.



EL-HADJI DIOUF
Leeds United
The Senegalese striker has been at Elland Road since August 2012. Now 33, he had only made a handful of appearances before Christmas this term but returned to action for the January games against Leicester City and Ipswich Town.

Adam Morgan photo courtesy of Yeovil Town FC

Neil MELLOR

The right attitude can temper overwhelming expectations

After the Under-21s victory at Stoke last month, I found coach Alex Inglethorpe's comments about Cameron Brannagan's development really encouraging.

Alex pointed out that lot of the work Brannagan does goes under the radar but has been recognised by management. His progression has already been marked by being selected on the bench for the first team in the FA Cup win over Oldham Athletic at Anfield in January.

Since then, though, he's been back with the Under-18s and the Under-21s and his attitude and performance levels have been spot-on.

Brannagan is a midfielder who is brave enough to run forward and support the strikers. You see so many who play a simple, conservative game. He's different – getting on the ball, passing positively and arriving in the box to score goals. To be able to do that against lads who quite often are a lot older is very impressive. It suggests that he is not scared of reputations.

Jon Flanagan's emergence in Brendan Rodgers' side has proven that you don't have to be the most talked-about player to become a footballer. In the pages of this magazine Flanagan explains that he progressed through the Academy without making "too much noise."

In comparison, young players can have too much pressure and too much expectancy too soon. When I was at the Academy, an Irish midfielder called Michael Foley signed a professional contract at 17 and everybody within the squad believed that was him set for the first team. He was brilliant on the ball, not the fastest – but his weight of pass was superb. He was touted as the next this, the next that. He was a fantastic player. But he only ended up returning to Dublin to play for St Patrick's Athletic without ever having played for Liverpool.



Cameron Brannagan

> **"You have to work hard to stamp your own identity as a player"**

We've heard people recently claim Jordan Rossiter is the next Steven Gerrard. It's unfair to burden any young player with a title, whether it's Jordan or anyone else. It's the type of pressure nobody needs. You have to work hard to stamp your own presence and identity as a player on the pitch – to be true to yourself. Until you are playing game after game for the first team, you have achieved nothing. I'm sure Jordan realises this, as he seems to have a sensible head on his shoulders.

Like Flanagan, Joao Carlos Teixeira is a good example of how you can move up from Kirkby to Melwood and at least get a chance at first team level. After a bit of excitement when he first signed from Sporting Lisbon, he suffered with injuries and didn't play too often for the U21s. A loan move to Brentford did not work out. But since returning and after some adversity, we've seen the real personality of the player. Sometimes it takes a bit of a setback to jolt you forward.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33

SKRTEL A WEEK IN THE LIFE

The Reds centre-half talks us through a typical countdown to a weekend kick-off – and its aftermath

Five-to-three on Saturday afternoon, and just underneath the *This Is Anfield* sign and up those half-dozen steps is a lush green pitch and an expectant Spion Kop singing *You'll Never Walk Alone*.Here in the narrow players' tunnel the adrenaline is pumping as I stand third in line (if I'm starting) usually behind Stevie and either Simon Mignolet or Daniel Agger while we get ready to run out. This is what all the previous week's work has been geared towards – the match.

Assuming it's a 3pm kick-off, that is, and it's at home. If this is the case, at the beginning of the week we'll usually have had the day off straight after the previous weekend's game. Then we train hard for three days – intensive stuff, all the physicality – before more tactical work leading to the fixture at the weekend, both as a group and as strikers, midfielders and defenders and goalkeepers, replicating game situations.

The training on the pitches at Melwood lasts for between 60 and 70 minutes – some positional games on the small pitch or the full-size one, it just depends on what the manager wants to do. Afterwards I'll go to the gym for maybe half-an-hour to do some upper-body work or some stuff like that.

We won't know the starting XI for the forthcoming fixture until the day before the game in our team meeting, in this case the Friday. There are not only four defenders in the team, there are eight defenders in the squad, which is good because it pushes you to work hard. Whether you're going to play or not, you have to focus on the work at hand and you can learn new things every single day.

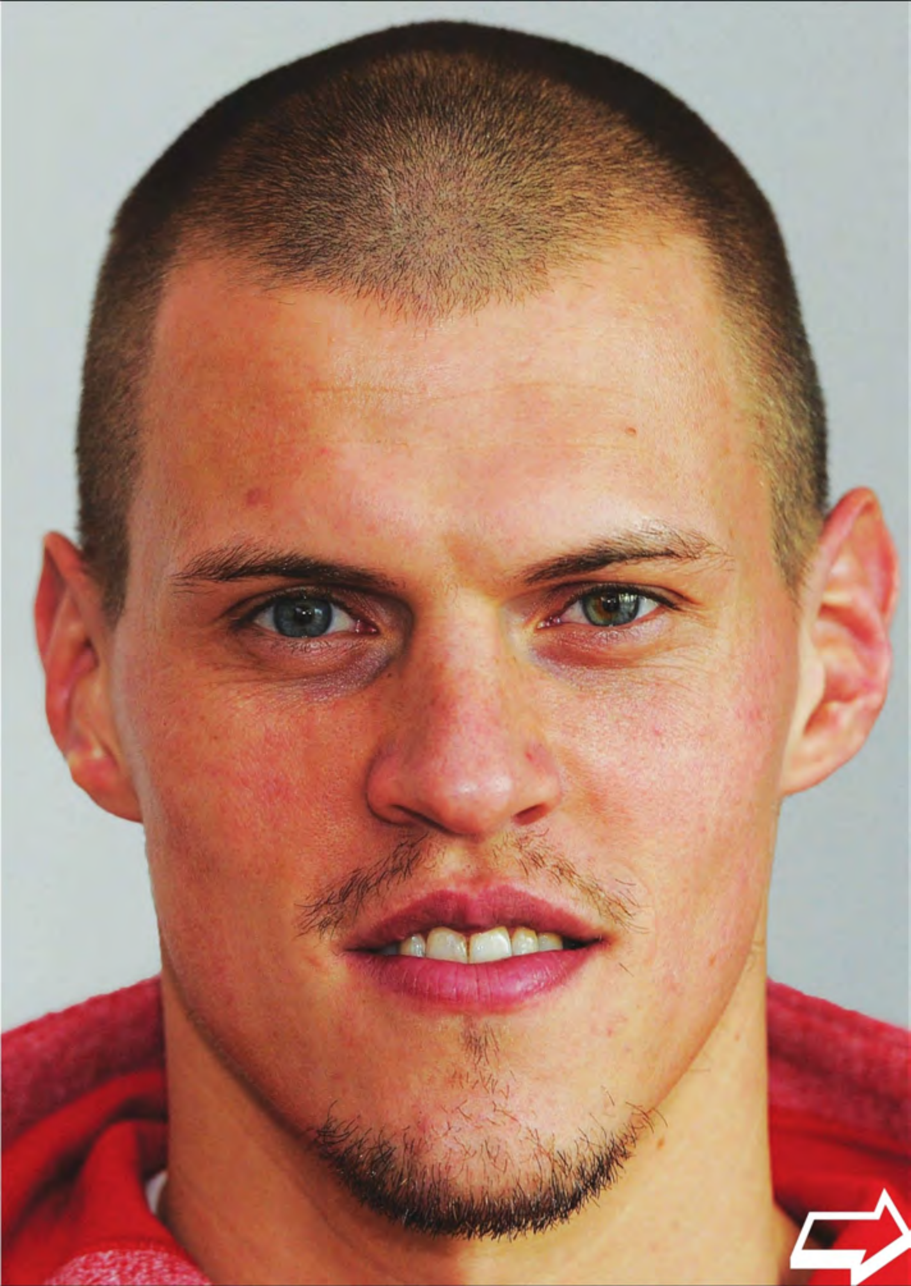
In the team meeting we'll watch videos of the opponents. It's then that the manager tells the squad who's going to be playing. All the coaching staff, and the opposition-analysis team, we're all together as the manager gives his talk. It's not that long, usually about ten or 15 minutes because the video guys have done a great job, and we're watching for example how the opposition start a game – if and how they like to build or break.

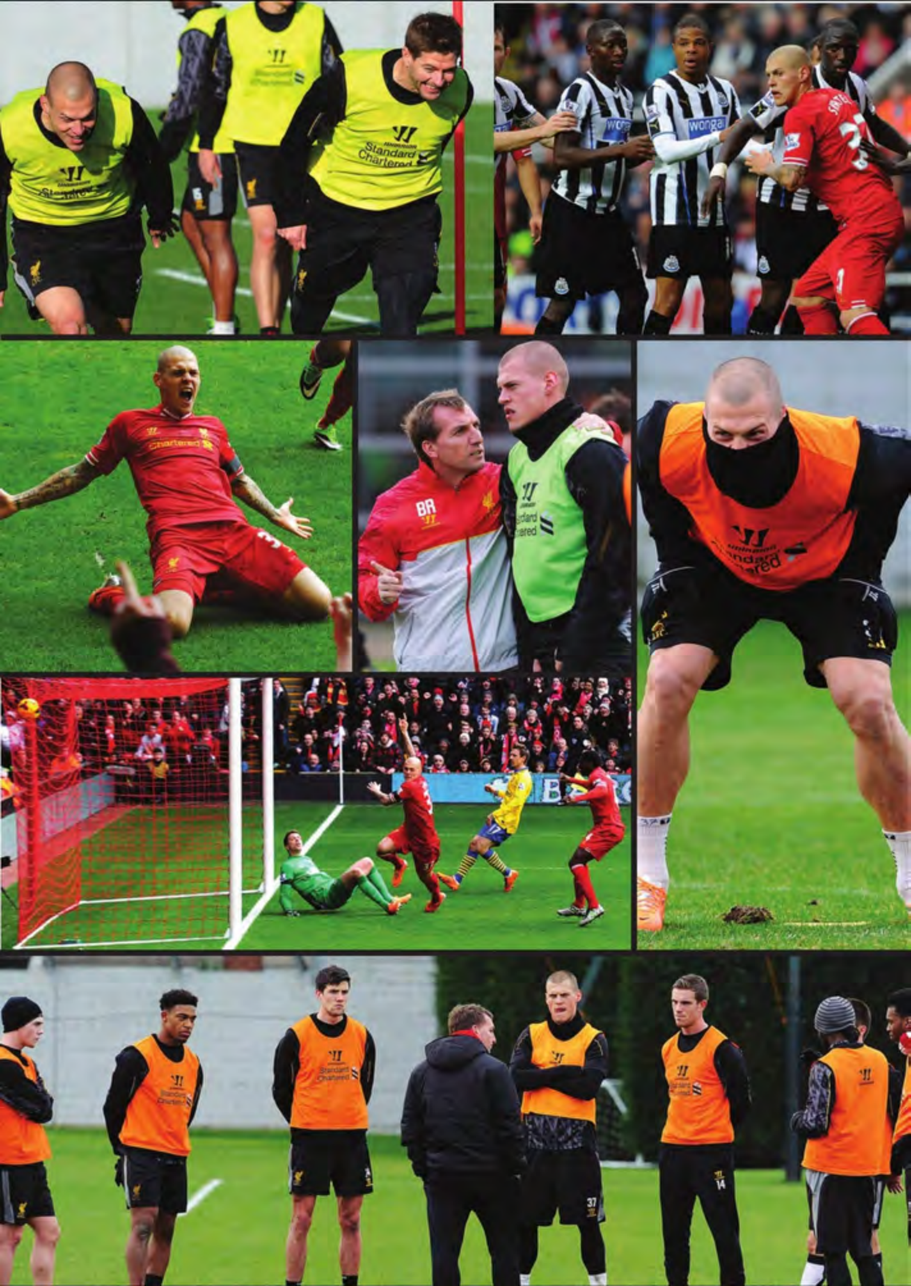
Again it depends on what time the game actually kicks off, but on the Friday night, especially before a 12.45 or 1.30pm match the next day, usually we go to our hotel, stay there and have some dinner. I'll get a massage or just relax and get a good night's sleep so I'm ready for the game in the morning. I'm usually a good sleeper.

For a three o'clock kick-off it's nice to stay at home the night before so I can spend the time with my family and relax. The next morning we'll all make our own way to Anfield to meet for half-past-eleven. I'll park my car there. Then we'll get on the coach and drive back to Melwood and we'll have a walk and some lunch. We have another meeting, perhaps talk about set-plays, then be back to Anfield 90 minutes before the game.

It's funny how fast or slow the time goes. If the game is three o'clock

"In Friday's team meeting the manager will tell us who's going to be playing"





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it's okay. But when it's early evening or a late kick-off like eight o'clock or quarter-to-eight the day is very long. You can't wait for it to start, you're just looking forward to it.

As a rule I don't ever get nervous. Of course you have expectations and you're excited about the game coming up – and so you should be. But nervous, no. Obviously I'm getting towards 30 now and I have an established routine, how I spend the time before the match starts. I don't really have any superstitions to talk of. On the morning of the game we might be at the hotel so I just get some breakfast and read the newspaper – usually a Slovakian one – then if it's a late kick-off we go for a walk in the afternoon, have a sleep for 90 minutes or so, then read a book or listen to some music.

So, in the dressing-room at Anfield before the game, once we've been out for our warm-up on the pitch as the ground begins to really fill, and when we've come back for our final preparations, the referee comes along to give us the knock to walk out into the corridor. Like I say, if I'm starting the game I'm always third in line. Obviously it's a bit different with the Slovakian national team because I'm captain so I go first. But here I always try to go third.

On the pitch, in front of a full house, we walk out with our opponents and go down the line for our customary handshakes. As we run back towards the Kop end I always try to find my family in the stands. I'll give a wave to my wife and son because he's two-and-a-half now and starting to watch football – he's already there at the home games!

I hope we've won the coin toss because it's good to start the game with the Kop behind us – in every sense – then attack that way in the second half. It makes you push even harder. Sometimes, especially for a really big game, it can be hard to make yourself heard on the pitch because the crowd at Anfield can really make some atmosphere. It's very loud, but that can only be good because every single Liverpool player loves it like that. It's difficult to explain how different it is, being on the pitch compared to watching a match from the stands or on TV. When you're playing in the game you're just totally concentrated on the job at hand. You hear the crowd but you don't really see the supporters all around you.

Our style of play is to try to keep the ball and make our opponents run. A lot of teams come to Anfield and try to defend well then go on the counter-attack, to try and hit us on the break with a quick goal. But you get used to it. We try to look at ourselves and let the opposition try to deal with our

Portraits: John Powell


Training is always hard but often fun

game. But no two games are really quite the same. Take Arsenal at home in the Premier League then away in the FA Cup fifth round. We started well in the first match and it made a big difference. A goal in the opening seconds, four up after 20 minutes. Obviously I was delighted to score twice but it's not about me – it's about the team, the group. Those four goals that day meant we could drop a bit, let them keep the ball and instead try to create something on the counter-attack. But in the second match we were losing 2-0 and had to push to force the issue. We got one back but couldn't quite find the equaliser. It was a different kind of game.

This season I've managed to find the net from a few set-pieces but to be honest I've always looked to get forward for free-kicks and corners, to get in there as a centre-back and try my best to score.

Like I've said in the past, I've scored something like 13 goals for Liverpool in total and maybe eight or nine of those have come from a cross from Stevie. We know he can deliver the ball, and if you can get something on it there's a good chance you can score. It's so

"We come back from our final warm-up and then the referee knocks on the door"

important to have a player like him. Sometimes we'll practise set-plays the day before the game and if I score in training I think maybe I'll get one in the actual match as well. But I'm a defender so my first job is stop goals. I'd always prefer to keep a clean sheet.

At half-time I'm back in the changing-room taking some drinks, maybe loosening my boots off for a few seconds. After five minutes or so the boss will have a talk to

us all, explain what we're doing right, what we're doing wrong, where we can improve in the second half.

When we're losing the clock goes very, very fast. When we're winning of course it's slow. Straight after the game, back in the changing-room the mood depends on the result. If you win and get the three points obviously it's always better.

The manager will talk to us, give us his opinion about the game, his feelings on how it went. He does his post-match interviews, as do some of the players, and the guys who didn't start will go out on the pitch for a run,

> "At half-time the boss gives it five minutes then tell us what's right and wrong"

while the guys who've played will mostly go to the ice-bath, get a shower and go home. The ice-bath isn't nice but I'm used to it. Since I've been at Liverpool we use it almost every day. Your legs are tired after the match and after training, so it helps the blood to circulate better and makes you recover quicker.

I leave the changing-room after an hour or so and go to meet my family in the stadium. Maybe two hours after the final whistle we'll leave Anfield and start to head home.

I don't usually like to watch myself on the telly in the evening. Sometimes it's okay if you score a goal or we win the game. But personally I just don't like to watch. When we're in the hotel before a Sunday game, maybe I'll put on *Match of the Day* to pass the time. But when I'm at home I just try to spend the time with my family. We'll relax and watch a movie, or go for a walk with the dog. I don't try to think too much about football then.

Sometimes as I mentioned, after the match we'll have the next day off. But occasionally we'll come into Melwood to cool off as part of our recovery– a few stretches, some pool work or gym stuff. Maybe the boss will have a few words about the game just gone, but most of the time we're looking forward to the next fixture – and always trying to improve.

TOP 10 LFC CENTRE-BACKS BY APPEARANCES...

1. Jamie Carragher 1997-2013
Apps/gls: 737/5
Games per goal: 147

2. Emlyn Hughes 1967-79
Apps/gls: 665/49
Games per goal: 14

3. Tommy Smith 1963-78
Apps/gls: 638/48
Games per goal: 13

4. Alan Hansen 1977-90
Apps/gls: 620/14
Games per goal: 44

5. Phil Thompson 1972-83
Apps/gls: 477/13
Games per goal: 37

6. Sami Hyypia 1999-2009
Apps/gls: 464/35
Games per goal: 13

7. Ron Yeats 1961-71
Apps/gls: 454/16
Games per goal: 28

8. Mark Lawrenson 1981-88
Apps/gls: 356/18
Games per goal: 20

9. Laurie Hughes 1946-57
Apps/gls: 326/1
Games per goal: 326

10. Bill Jones 1946-54
Apps/gls: 277/17
Games per goal: 16

Skrtel (2008-) has 13 goals in 234 apps (at time of press)



Celebrating his early goal against Arsenal


SKRTEL
37
15



TERRY'S ALL GOALS

Heard the one about the centre-forward who scored as many goals in one game for Liverpool as the Reds have won league titles? Statistician Jonny Stokkeland, creator of the Liverpool Official Archive, provides the fascinating answers...

Q Which Liverpool FC player holds the record for most goals scored in a game?

A Records show that on 31 January 1959, Liverpool's youth team defeated Pilkington Amateurs 19-0 and that Terry Bleasdale scored eight goals – but that wasn't the half of it!

Picture the scene. A cold January day at Melwood and a young striker lines up for the Reds youth team trying to impress. He scores goal after goal, ruthlessly taking every chance that comes his way. By the end of the game Liverpool have won 19-0 and the centre-forward has helped himself to a haul of 18 goals!

It sounds like something taken from a script of *Scully*, the 1980s TV series created by Liverpool playwright Alan Bleasdale which centered around Francis Scully, a teenage boy with his heart set on playing in a trial match for the Reds. However, the 19-0 win did happen – and the 18 goals were scored by Alan's older brother, Terry.

Speaking to the magazine at his Huyton home, Terry, now 73, says: "I'm flabbergasted this story has come out but yes – it's true. The thing is, the club only credited me with eight of the goals as they didn't want me to get big-headed."

Alan Bleasdale was among the spectators that day but aside from a handful of others watching and the players involved, only one other person knew what really happened. "I told my wife Joyce but never thought anyone else would know," adds Terry. "Eighteen goals in one game? You're joking aren't you!"

When statistician Jonny Stokkeland discovered Terry's 'eight' goal haul, LFC museum curator Stephen Done contacted Terry, a personal friend. "I told Stephen that it wasn't eight but eighteen. The youth team was coached by the former great Liverpool centre-forward Jackie Balmer but the coaches told him they would give me eight goals to prevent me getting carried away, and they'd divvy out the rest between the other players."

Also in the LFC line-up that day was a certain Ian Callaghan, but although he supplied crosses for some of the goals he wasn't one of the players 'awarded' a goal by the LFC coaches! The official records credited Terry with eight, Laurie Madgin with six, Tony Almond and William Hubbert with two apiece and Peter Price with the other.

"I remember that the opposition were a very poor team and that I didn't miss a chance. I was banging them in – I remember a few were headers – and started keeping count. When I got to 10 I was thinking: I wonder how many I could end up with here… It's funny looking at those names because I could have sworn Johnny Morrissey and Len Ashurst played in that game.

"In the end it never worked out for me and it is a regret of mine that I didn't make the grade. I think I've been a frustrated footballer all my life!"

Terry comes from good footballing stock. Grandfather George, a First World War POW, played for Blackburn Rovers. Two of Terry's sons also played professionally – Steven for Sheffield Wednesday (he later managed Peterborough and Chester) and David (an ex-LFC apprentice who cleaned the boots of Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness) for Preston.

Terry's father had taken him to Anfield during the Second World War and he easily reels off the names of the Reds starting XI for the 1950 FA Cup final. "People talk about Louis Bimpson, Jackie Balmer, Albert Subbins and Billy Liddell and I used to love them. You'd come out of the ground when you were eight or nine and you'd feel as though you were a player yourself. You'd skip along and kick an imaginary ball because you'd been watching Liverpool."

> **"The club credited me with only half of the goals to stop me getting big headed!"**

No wonder becoming a regular at Anfield himself was Terry's dream. "A hell of a lot of lads went through the Liverpool youth teams at the time. I played at Anfield in the Catholic Cup for St Aidan's in Huyton. I also played for Huyton & District Boys and started training with Liverpool on Tuesdays and Thursday soon after that.

"I initially played for the C team, the 'colts' and the youth team, but in 1956 Wolves manager Stan Cullis came to see me and I went on their groundstaff for 12 months. But I couldn't settle in Wolverhampton and, being a Liverpool lad, wanted to get home.

"I played a couple of games on trial for Bolton's reserves. They wanted to sign me but Liverpool asked me to go back into the youth set-up. I was 17 then. I was an apprentice bricklayer at McAlpine's and played for 12 months but it didn't work out, Liverpool released me and after that I joined Prescot Cables."



Terry with his future wife Joyce in the late 1950s

Terry's displays for Prescot soon took the eye of Tranmere and he joined the Prenton Park club for a while before deciding to cut his ties with the professional game. "The ex-Everton captain Peter Farrell was manager. I stayed at Tranmere part-time for 18 months. The money was £8 a week and they asked me to sign a contract, but the money wouldn't have been any more. I had two sons by then and with a family to support I needed a 'proper' job so took one on the buses. I played part-time for various non-league teams but got a knee injury at about 22 and had to pack it in.

"That's life but it's nice to look back and know I hold a small piece of Liverpool Football Club history."

ASK JONNY...

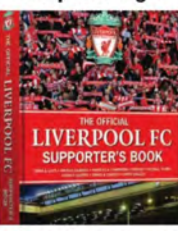
Jonny and his team aim to help ex-players or families of ex-players requesting information and are grateful when they receive new biographical details. If you have an LFC-related query about a player or game, you can contact Jonny via lfcmag@programmemaster.com. Jonny is also trying to track down line-ups for the following reserve and youth fixtures: Liverpool U-17s and U-19s v Tottenham 5 Sept 1998. If you can help, please get in touch.

Words: William Hughes



The bit at the back for Liverpool's legions of fans at home and all over the world…









The month

LIVERPOOL V TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Barclays Premier League 4pm Sunday 30 March 2014

The start of British Summer Time, Mothering Sunday and a home clash against Spurs as the Reds look to cement their league position ahead of the last six games. Each of the last two matches between the sides have both produced five goals with Liverpool edging home 3-2 at Anfield in March 2013 thanks to Steven Gerrard's late penalty. The Reds ran riot at White Hart Lane in December with a 5-0 triumph.

DON'T MISS ANY OF THE BUILD-UP ON LFC TV

A ROYALS VISIT

Neil Critchley's youngsters (right) face a visit to Reading in the quarter-final of the FA Youth Cup. Goals from Harry Wilson and Daniel Trickett-Smith (right) gave the Reds a 2-0 win at Watford in the fifth round to set up the trip to Berkshire. The tie will take place on Wednesday 12 March with a 7pm kick off. Last season the Reds reached the semi-finals and are aiming to go one better this time around.



BOOK NOW FOR US TOUR

Tickets are on sale for the Reds' pre-season trip to America for the International Champions Cup. Liverpool will play Olympiacos on 27 July in Chicago, Manchester City on 30 July in New York and AC Milan on 2 August in Charlotte, North Carolina. The games are dependent upon not impacting on European qualification games. For full details, please visit **www.lfctour.com**.



ahead

ANNIVERSARIES

47 years since Emlyn Hughes made his Liverpool debut on 4 March

88 years since Gordon Hodgson scored his first LFC goal on 10 March

5 years since the Reds beat Real Madrid 4-0 in the Champions League on 10 March (right)

5 years since the 4-1 win at Manchester United on 14 March

37 years since the legendary 3-1 victory over St Etienne in the European Cup quarter-finals on 16 March



BIRTHDAY XI

Simon Mignolet 26 on 6 March
Djimi Traore 34 on 1 March
Joey Jones 59 on 4 March
Kolo Toure 33 on 19 March
Joe Allen on 24 on 14 March
Danny Murphy 37 on 18 March
Gordon Milne 77 on 29 March
Kenny Dalglish 63 on 4 March
Fernando Torres 30 on 20 March
John Toshack 65 on 22 March
Fabio Borini 23 on 29 March



LFC TV Q&A WITH PETER MCDOWALL LFC TV PRESENTER



First game you attended?
Just prior to the FA Cup final in May 1988, we played Luton Town at Anfield and drew 1-1. I remember it like it was yesterday. I was on at my dad for ages to try and get tickets for a match as I was Liverpool-daft but he kept telling me he couldn't get hold of any and then surprised me and my brother Ryan and took us. I still remember being mesmerised by the pitch as we took our seats just after kick-off as John Barnes sprinted down the right hand-side. He looked so small but quite rightly was my first sight at my first live game. It was the game where Nigel Spackman and Gary Gillespie smashed into each other and had to go off, the clash responsible for those headbands in the FA Cup final with Wimbledon a week later!

Favourite player growing up?
It was Sammy Lee and I absolutely loved him. Again my dad was tormented by my football obsession and when he bought me and my brother the new kit, I sent him in search of the no8 for my mum to sew on the back. I even switched allegiances for a few weeks in the summer of 1986 when he joined QPR. I was the only kid on Merseyside with their kit – my poor dad was sent on another shopping trip!

First player you interviewed?
I grew up in Wirral so when I was cutting my teeth I worked in hospital radio and we covered Tranmere in Aldo's time there. I think it was Gary Stevens, the ex-Everton full-back and he was a lovely guy. I remember interviewing Nick Henry and being pleased with myself until I looked down midway through and realised I hadn't plugged the microphone in! The first Liverpool player I interviewed was Danny Murphy when I was at Radio City. I tried to play it cool but I'm not sure I carried it off.

How hard is it separating being a fan and doing your job?
You have to be professional first and foremost but you never lose it completely. It's what made me fall in love with football in the first place and the day I lose that fan-feeling for the game is the day I should pack it all in.



Assuming Istanbul is your favourite game, what's no2 on your list?
Without hesitation it would be when we beat Everton in the semi-final a couple of seasons ago at Wembley to get to the FA Cup final. I got to announce the team twice at the side of the pitch and even read a bit of Dave Kirkby's new poem in the centre circle as the lads tried to hit me with a succession of balls – John Achterberg saving me a few times! But getting a nice cheer and getting booed by the Evertonians is a memory I will never forget. It was also lovely standing next to Kenny and Steve Clarke as the winning penalty went in a few weeks earlier in the Carling Cup Final. The joy and emotion on his face as he came back from the lap of honour was priceless.

Favourite away ground?
The Emirates takes some beating. The games are always brilliant and you don't half get looked after in the press lounge!

Star you were happiest to meet?
There are so many brilliant moments and I've been blessed to do the job I have but getting to spend a lot of time with Ronnie Moran recently has been great. To be at one club for 49 years and to be part of so much success is uniquely brilliant.

Favourite opposition player?
It's normally the one you dislike most isn't it? Currently though you can't look domestically past Manchester City. I love watching Sergio Aguero in full flow. His touch, pace and power is incredible.

Funniest moment at work?
I spent a week with the Liverpool legends in South Africa recently and my ribs didn't stop aching from all the laughter. John Aldridge and Robbie Fowler are like comedians and if you let your guard down you can fall victim!

Is there anyone that you would still like to interview?
I've been so lucky to interview most Liverpool players and legends but I would have loved to have spent some time with Bill Shankly. He is still an icon to me and you'd always have to be on your toes. He once told a journalist from the BBC: "I've been asked some stupid questions in my time – and you son, you've asked all of them!"



DON'T FORGET THE BUYBACK SERVICE!

Many of LFC's Premier League clashes at Anfield are sell-outs – but if you can't attend the game, we have a suggestion for season-ticket holders. If there's some reason you cannot make it to Anfield, why not return your season ticket seat using our Buyback service and receive credit against the cost of your season-ticket next season if your seat is re-sold to another official LFC member? Don't let your seat go empty – visit www.liverpoolfc.com/tickets/ticket-exchange or call 0843 170 5555 to return your seat.





MELLOR MEETS REDS STARLETS

Former Liverpool footballer Neil Mellor has turned his hand to TV presenting and his brand new show is currently running on LFC TV.

Mellor Meets sees ex-Academy graduate Neil interview some of the club's aspiring young talents in an attempt to get a true insight into their daily lives.

Having taken the same journey during his time at Liverpool, Mellor recalls some of his own experiences and speaks to the players about what it takes to be an up-and-coming footballer at one of the world's most historic clubs.

After coming through the ranks in 2002, the Sheffield-born forward went on to make 22 appearances for the first team and will always be best remembered for his goals against Arsenal and Olympiacos in2004.

Mellor is now carving out a career for himself in the media and so far in this new five part series, he has already met Jordon Ibe and Jordan Lussey, Coming up in March he catches up with Andre Wisdom, Brad Smith and Conor Coady so make sure you don't miss 'Mellor Meets'.

Mellor Meets: Andre Wisdom
– 6 March 2014 at 9.30pm.
Mellor Meets: Brad Smith
– 13 March 2014 at 9.30pm.
Mellor Meets: Conor Coady
– 20th March 2014 at 9.30pm.

For just £2.99 LFC TV Online allows you to watch LFC TV live and will give you on-demand access to all the team's goals, highlights, live reserve and under-18 games, news and exclusive video interviews.
For more information visit www.liverpoolfc.com/video.

Delayed coverage of every game will also be available on LFC TV which is free to view on Sky channel 429 or Virgin channel 544. For full listings visit www.liverpoolfc.com.





FIXTURES 13/14

AUGUST

Fixture	Result
17 Stoke City **(H)**	1-0
24 Aston Villa **(A)**	1-0
27 Notts County **(H)** (COC 2)	4-2

SEPTEMBER

Fixture	Result
1 Manchester Utd **(H)**	1-0
16 Swansea City **(A)**	2-2
21 Southampton **(H)**	0-1
25 Manchester Utd **(A)** (COC 3)	0-1
29 Sunderland **(A)**	3-1

OCTOBER

Fixture	Result
5 Crystal Palace **(H)**	3-1
19 Newcastle Utd **(A)**	2-2
26 West Brom **(H)**	4-1

NOVEMBER

Fixture	Result
2 Arsenal **(A)**	0-2
9 Fulham **(H)**	4-0
23 Everton **(A)**	3-3

DECEMBER

Fixture	Result
1 Hull City **(A)**	1-3
4 Norwich City **(H)**	5-1
7 West Ham Utd **(H)**	4-1
15 Tottenham H **(A)**	5-0
21 Cardiff City **(H)**	3-1
26 Manchester City **(A)**	1-2
29 Chelsea **(A)**	1-2

JANUARY 2013

Fixture	Result
1 Hull City **(H)**	2-0
5 Oldham (FAC 3) **(H)**	2-0
12 Stoke City **(A)**	5-3
18 Aston Villa **(H)**	2-2
25 Bournemouth (FAC 4) **(A)**	2-0
28 Everton **(H)**	4-0

FEBRUARY

Fixture	Result
2 West Brom **(A)**	1-1
8 Arsenal **(H)**	5-1
12 Fulham **(A)**	3-2
16 Arsenal (FAC 5) **(A)**	1-2
23 Swansea City **(H)**	4-3

MARCH

1 Southampton **(A) 5:30pm**
16 Manchester Utd **(A) 1:30pm**
22 Cardiff City **(A) 3:00pm**
26 Sunderland **(H) 8:00pm**
30 Tottenham H **(H) 4:00pm**

APRIL

5 West Ham Utd **(A)**
12 Manchester City **(H)**
19 Norwich City **(A)**
26 Chelsea **(H)**

MAY

3 Crystal Palace **(A)**
11 Newcastle Utd **(H)**

All kick-off times are BST. All Barclays Premier League fixtures are subject to change for the requirements of television and/or for other reasons such as police requests.

Please check **www.liverpoolfc.com** for the latest details as and when they happen.

Away days

Old Trafford looms and one Kopite recalls past games at the other end of the East Lancs

Having grown up in Anfield it's no surprise to hear that Stephanie Jones didn't encounter any Manchester United supporters during her formative years.

"It was only later when I moved to London [to live and work] that I got to know some United fans," she explains. "Thankfully we don't wind each other up too much."

Some of Steph's first away trips were to the home of our fierce rivals, including a memorable victory there in April 1982. "I think I had been previously with my dad. But the game in 82 was the first time I'd gone with a friend. We made the short trip to Manchester in the afternoon and ended up meeting Mark E Smith, the singer with The Fall. Bumping in to him meant it was always going to be an unforgettable day.

"Then we went and won 1-0 thanks to Craig Johnston's goal. It was also the first time I'd been on the terrace there so that added to the whole experience."

Liverpool wins at Old Trafford weren't a regular occurrence though. "The majority of the time we seemed to lose or draw when I went there. Easter 1998 was a prime example. I was working for a football magazine called *Goal* and Pele was speaking to the media before kick-off. He was asked who he thought were United's best players and listed Steve McManaman as one of them."

Old Trafford



Danny's free-kick in December 2000 (above) and pen in April 2004



The match turned out to be all about the performance of another Liverpool player. "Michael Owen scored to make it 1-1 before getting sent off a few minutes later for a tackle on Ronny Johnsen. The following season he scored there again, after what felt like just 10 seconds in an FA Cup tie. We were still leading going in to the last minute and I remember a few people around me started singing *You'll Never Walk Alone*. I felt it was still a little too early and that was the case as they scored twice to win. Old Trafford is definitely the worst stadium to be at when you concede a late goal."

Steph missed out on the trio of Danny Murphy-inspired 1-0 wins at the home of the Red Devils during the Noughties: his penalty in April 2004; the hooked effort over Fabien Barthez in January 2002; and his superb free-kick in December 2000 that ended United's two-year unbeaten home run in the Premier League. Prior to those victories the Reds had triumphed just three times at United in 24 visits dating back to December 1978.

Instead she had to wait until a famous March day in 2009 to witness

> **"On a 1982 trip we bumped into the singer Mark E Smith"**

us winning in front of the Stretford End again. "It was worth it. Any Liverpool fan in attendance that day will always cherish it. A couple of weeks earlier we'd lost away to a poor Middlesbrough team. Then all of a sudden we found some great form, put four past Real Madrid and went to Old Trafford and did the same again.

"The scoreline wasn't the only pleasing aspect, it was the manner of the victory. We came back from being a goal down and scored some fine goals of our own.

"I clearly remember as Fabio Aurelio lined up his free-kick I said to a friend: 'If this goes in we'll be kept back for ages after the final whistle'.



Man Utd v Liverpool
1.30pm Sunday 16.03.14

2009: absolutely Fabio

That was the case but we didn't mind because we were too busy celebrating.

"Usually if we take the lead against them I just want the game to end there and then. That Aurelio goal plus Nemanja Vidic's sending-off in the build-up to it meant we were 3-1 up against 10 men with something like 13 or 14 minutes remaining. For once I could relax, as I knew they wouldn't come back. Then Andrea Dossena came on and scored another."

Almost two years later Old Trafford was also the setting for another sight Steph and every Reds fan never thought they'd witness – the return of Kenny Dalglish as Liverpool boss.

"Those first few minutes when he walked along the touchline and waved to the away supporters were amazing. It gave us all such a lift and made us think the club was going in the right direction again. We lost the game 1-0 but, because Kenny was back, it wasn't so hard to take. With him back in charge we suddenly felt that we could take on anyone again."

Dalglish's opposite number in the home dugout that day is a man who, despite the rivalry between the clubs, has earned the respect of LFC supporters. "I've never been Alex Ferguson's biggest fan," says Steph. "However you have to acknowledge the brilliant job he did there. It's the same with some of their players. We might not like them but who wouldn't want to have had Paul Scholes or Ryan Giggs in their team? For me, Giggs in particular has been superb for such a long time."

> **"When Aurelio scored I knew we'd be kept in for ages"**

While Old Trafford has played host to many enthralling games between Liverpool and Manchester United, the Reds have also faced other opposition at the same venue – notably FA Cup semi-finals against Everton (1971), Nottingham Forest (1989), Aston Villa (1996) and most recently Chelsea (2006). Steph was at the most recent two and says: "In 2006 the fact that we weren't playing United there that day probably made the trip even better. The weather was great, the atmosphere was superb and the result was perfect [2-1 to Liverpool]. Afterwards it was brilliant to know that we'd knocked Chelsea out of a competition in the semi-final for the second year running.

"For me Old Trafford is the perfect venue for a cup semi. There is something especially pleasing about winning there – at the home of a rival – and knowing you are then on your way to a final."



Travelling Reds at Old Trafford last September

CLASSIC CLASH

01.10.95
Man United 2 Liverpool 2

The afternoon was supposed to be all about Eric Cantona's return to action after an eight-month ban. Instead it was Robbie Fowler who took centre-stage. Sporting peroxide blonde hair, the 20-year-old's explosive shot deceived Peter Schmeichel at his near post to cancel out Nicky Butt's opener. After the interval Fowler added his second by outmuscling Gary Neville and using his so-called weaker right foot to clip a superb finish over the keeper. Cantona later levelled matters with a penalty, but the real star of the show was the Liverpool no23.


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HILLSBOROUGH
Memorial Service – 25th Anniversary

Tuesday 15 April 2014 will be the 25th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster that cost 96 Liverpool fans their lives. The Hillsborough Family Support Group will mark the occasion with a Memorial Service at Anfield.

The Service will commence at 2.45pm prompt with access to the stadium possible from 1pm. A one-minute silence will be observed at 3.06pm and the Service will conclude at around 3.45pm with the singing of *You'll Never Walk Alone.*

In the interests of safety, and to plan accordingly, all those wishing to attend the Memorial Service must obtain a free ticket no later than Monday 31 March 2014 – see panel, below, for details.

Margaret Aspinall, Chair of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, says: "Every day we continue to remember those who lost their lives. During this 25th anniversary service we will turn on a light for each and every life that was extinguished prematurely and the eternal flame of the Hillsborough Memorial will continue to light our way through the darkest days.

"We urge you to obtain your ticket as early as possible and we have put a closing date of Monday 31 March so we can plan accordingly.

"For many, 15 April may be a working day and there will be those who are unable to attend. We invite you to join us in thought and spirit and keep us in your prayers at this difficult time."



How to obtain your ticket(s)

Tickets to the Service can be obtained free of charge by phoning the Liverpool FC Ticket Office on 0843 170 5555 (overseas 0044 151 907 9399), by postal application to LFC Ticket Office, PO Box 204, Liverpool L69 3JF or by visiting the Ticket Office at Anfield. For planning purposes, the closing date for tickets is Monday 31 March.

Should you require disabled access then please advise accordingly when making your application. Please note there will be a restriction of four tickets per application, but the club will be sensitive in exceptional cases to requests for larger numbers.

Liverpool FC welcomes all attendees. However please note no prams or pushchairs will under any circumstances be allowed into the stadium. The club asks you to please keep this in mind if you are bringing young children to the service.

The club also requests that everyone arrives early as the service will start promptly at 2.45pm. Please note that tickets will not be available on the day of the Service.

Sisters of

NINA BERRY

Production manager for LFC TV

During my degree course in Screen Studies at John Moore's University, I arranged a work-placement on a BBC drama called *Nice Guy Eddie*. As soon as I graduated I was offered a production-runner position on Danny Boyle's film *Millions*, and everything just went from there. For a few years I freelanced in TV dramas then moved to LFC TV when it launched in 2007.

It's a really good place to work. Everyone brings their own skills and experience to a team effort. My normal day could involve anything from assigning crew to shoots, booking incoming match-feeds, arranging Outside Broadcasts for U21s games, organising the edit schedules and fielding external requests for footage. I love the variety.

There is so much room for the channel to grow as well, so I'm looking forward to the future with LFCTV.





Sue and Chris with Reds legend Phil Neal and Jeanette Dodd, disabled fans representative for the LFC SC

SUE COOPER & CHRIS GRIMES

Matchday stewards

SUE: We both originally joined as crowd-control stewards – we came for an interview together in 1991 and we've been with the club ever since, 22 seasons. We now specifically look after our disabled supporters at home games.

Chris picks me up and we travel together. Once we get to the ground we collect our equipment and attend a briefing then take up our positions. We have a checklist to ensure everything is in order to welcome supporters – I look after the Kop and Sue looks after the Paddock. I enjoy everything about my job. The fans are inspirational – they travel from all over the country and over the years I've built up several good friendships. Teamwork is key and we're passionate about our role.

A few years ago Chris and I received a 'Beyond the Call of Duty' award presented by Phil Neal at a home match. It was amazing to receive it in front of 40,000 spectators.

CHRIS: Sue and I have been friends for 38 years. We are passionate LFC supporters and held season-tickets for several years. In 1991 an employee of the club mentioned the role of stewarding and suggested we applied, so we did.

I enjoy being part of a great team. We all work together and support one another. I get a kick out of matchday when I meet people who haven't been before – it's so important that they have a great experience. Our aim is to accommodate our disabled fans and their carers to ensure they enjoy their visit. We stay in position during the game and provide assistance as required. It's a pleasure to work with our fans – they're so loyal. My pleasure comes from other people's enjoyment.

Mersey

To mark **International Women's Day** on 8 March, the club's equality and inclusion officer Michelle Kirk interviews five females in different roles at Liverpool FC

NATALIE WIGNALL
LFC general counsel

I qualified as a barrister in October 1992. My family are typical working-class Liverpool. We lived in Kensington but I went to school in Everton where my grandparents and broader family were from.

I studied law at John Moores, went to Bar School in London then came home after I'd qualified and practised in three areas: employment law, corporate work and commercial work. They've all stood me in good stead during my time at LFC. I joined the club in October 2009, one year to the day before Fenway Sports Group took over. As an in-house lawyer I am committed to providing a service with integrity and excellence at its heart.

"I provide a service with integrity and excellence at its heart"

I have three areas of responsibility: legal, HR and club secretary. I'm also a member of the executive team working together on key strategic projects (such as stadium redevelopment), liaising with the ownership group at FSG, managing my team and our relationships with external law firms and other key stakeholders.

I love being part of something that means so much to people in my home city. Earlier this year myself and Susan Black [director of communications] were proud to represent the club at the Pride of Britain Awards when Margaret Aspinall, chairwoman of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, was given a lifetime recognition award.

There are lots of women working behind the scenes in senior roles at football clubs and I've tried to encourage that. For example the people that do my job at Arsenal and Aston Villa are women. We have recruited women in key roles across my team and the rest of the club, and I see this as a trend that will increase. Coupled with the increased publicity that the women's game is receiving, more young women will start to look at a career in football.





AMANDA DA COSTA
Liverpool Ladies player

I'm a full-time professional footballer in my second year with the club. I also write for the magazine and have taken on a digital ambassador role for the Ladies team. The amount of tradition within the club is astounding. I couldn't imagine working anywhere else at this point in my life.

I played in the US professional league for two years, followed by my first year with LFC in 2013 when we became league champions. I've been a coach for several clubs in the United States and have recently started my own personal training company run from Liverpool.

The best part about working at LFC is how the entire club is centered on a one-club mentality. They certainly make the Liverpool Ladies feel as though they are completely integrated.

I'm playing the game that I love for a living, but I remember what it was like as a young girl to have high expectations for myself in the athletic field, and I also know how difficult a road it was. I play today so I can be a part of a movement that will give younger girls the opportunities I wish had when I was younger.



Working with children and adults to help inspire positive change through sport – follow us on Twitter @LFCFoundation to keep up to date with the community team's projects and activities

Natasha Dowie and Gemma Bonner with Liverpool FC Foundation coaches and pupils at St John Bosco

Ladies first


Natasha coaching St John Bosco students

The FA Women & Girls Programme, a new initiative funded by the Premier League and Liverpool FC Foundation, aims to increase access to high-quality football coaching to women and girls of every age across the city region.

To promote its launch, Liverpool Ladies captain Gemma Bonner and star striker Natasha Dowie visited St John Bosco Arts College in Croxteth for its 'Focus on Football' week. The pair joined Liverpool FC Foundation coaches to deliver coaching sessions as well as taking part in a Q&A session at the all-girls school.

Debbie Hughes, the college's PE subject lead, said: "It was fantastic for our pupils to meet positive female role models like Natasha and Gemma. They provide inspiration for our students and demonstrate that they can achieve their goals in life through hard work and determination."

Dowie added that she was "very proud to be a professional footballer for Liverpool Ladies and England. Football is a great sport to be involved in and I really love encouraging more girls to start playing."

The day is the first of many sessions due to take place in schools and colleges over the next three months. The Foundation will establish 12 community hubs at schools, sports and community centres, to provide dedicated women-and-girls-only coaching sessions.

If you'd like more information, please email **girlsfoundationfootball@ liverpoolfc.com**.

BRENDAN & CO CALL ON ANFIELD SCHOOL

Foundation staff and participants with Brendan Rodgers and some of the team from Melwood

Liverpool FC Foundation, the club's official charity, recently hosted a fun-filled challenge day with Brendan Rodgers and staff from Melwood.

The event, which took place at Anfield Sports & Community Centre, was attended by 40 children from All Saints Catholic Primary School and Phoenix (special educational needs) Primary School, two of the Foundation's partner schools. The kids were split into four groups and joined by the Reds boss and his colleagues to take part in Beat the Goalie and relay challenges.

Brendan said: "This afternoon was great fun and a chance for me and the team at Melwood to be part of the LFC Foundation. We are always keen to show our support whenever we can because the work they deliver is fantastic and makes a real difference to people's lives."

High five!

After the challenge the manager congratulated all the teams and presented each participant with a certificate, signed team photograph and an LFC goodie bag.

Brendan coaching Liverpool FC Foundation participants

INSPIRING POSITIVE CHANGE IN JAKARTA



Liverpool FC Foundation coaches at Jakarta State University

The Foundation delivers a range of equality and inclusion programmes in communities across the world that inspires positive change and helps build better futures for people of all ages.

Two of its coaches visited Jakarta in Indonesia earlier this month to work with the club's charity partner from the 2013 pre-season tour, Gocekz – a social-inclusion project established through the Premier League and the British Council's international community development programme, Premier Skills. The Foundation coaches conducted a needs analysis, delivered a football-focused workshop for volunteer coaches and visited a Gocekz project in a children's centre.

Sally Goggin from the British Council Indonesia said: "We are absolutely delighted to be working with Liverpool FC Foundation on the Premier Skills Gocekz programme. Liverpool FC has one of the most active Foundations involved in community engagement. Supporting the development of the Gocekz community coaches is incredibly important for the continued benefits that this project can bring to the communities in Jakarta."

POETRY IN MOTION

Why one Reds supporter is committing his love for Liverpool FC to verse


Ben feels that football and poetry are a perfect fit

Liverpool FC and poetry have a lot of previous – from John Toshack's *Gosh It's Tosh* collection in the late 70s, to the verse of Dave Kirby and Peter Etherington in the fanzine *Red All Over the Land*, to the lines written by poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy, a University of Liverpool graduate, in the aftermath of 2012's Hillsborough findings.

Now there's Ben Wilkinson, Reds fan and book critic for The Guardian and the Times Literary Supplement, who's compiling a series of poems commemorating the club's legends.

"Football is part of the fabric of life, and anything that's important to people finds its way into poetry," he says. "Wilfred Owen's poem *Disabled* describes a soldier who loses the use of his legs, meaning he can never play football again. Philip Larkin's *MCMXIV* compares boys queuing to join the army to fans outside Villa Park. These poems have stood the test of time because they recognise that football is more than just sport – it's a way of life.

Stafford-born Ben, whose grandfather worked in the shadow of the Liver Building, was inspired by a collection of Philip Larkin verse to write about what he loved. "I'm interested in the way everyone comes together at the match, how there's this feeling of hope and possibility. When I came to write *Liverpool v Derby County* I wanted to capture a specific memory – the first game I saw at Anfield. Watching John Barnes and Robbie Fowler left a big impression. It wasn't an easy poem to write – trying to explain how an 'ordinary' game meant so much to a 10-year-old lad. But it's an experience most football fans will recognise."

Liverpool v Derby County Anfield 1996

Living up to its fabled buzz, the Kop roared and rose
even before kick-off. Down in the main stand
I watched; John Barnes adjusting his captain's band
on the distant, hallowed turf. Waves of red in rows
and rows – a kid in that season's kit, I swelled
with a kind of borrowed pride, belonging
without belonging; my dad and brother craning
to see McManaman darting, how Fowler propelled
strike after strike.
Half-time over, and a perfect header
left the keeper without a chance ... the place erupted
with air-punches and applause. I still remember it
like that: the emerald pitch, dramatic and floodlit;
a darkening October sky. An ordinary game, solid
win, save for one kid, transfixed,
looking on in wonder.

WISH LIST

Spring/Summer is coming and there's really no excuse for not supporting the Mighty Reds in style – and these are just a few must-haves from the **Official LFC Collection**. The range in its entirety can be viewed and purchased online at **liverpoolfc.com/store** and any Official Club Store.



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3



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1 **Men's Grey Zip-Thru Hoody £45** (A2928)
2 **Men's Grey Quilted Jumper £40** (A2923)
3 **Men's Red Fine Stripe Polo £35** (A2904)
4 **Men's White LFC Polo £35** (A2900)
5 **Men's Blue Block Print Tee £25** (A2913)
6 **Men's Grey Pocket Tee £28** (A2919)
7 **Men's Red Print Flock Tee £25** (A2915)

All featured products are available in official club stores and online at **www.liverpoolfc.com/store**

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WIN BUNDLES OF LFC BOOKS

We've got 10 lots of four official Liverpool FC books, all published by Carlton, to give away to the first 10 lucky readers whose correct answer to the question below is pulled out of the hat.

Official LFC Sticker Colouring Book Colour in portraits of your heroes, draw yourself in the Kop!

Official LFC Sticker Activity Book Crammed with puzzles to solve and awesome activities to complete

Official LFC Ultimate Junior Reds Book The perfect companion guide to Liverpool FC for any Junior Red.

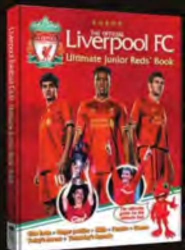
Official LFC Supporters Book Featuring a foreword by Anfield legend Ian Rush.

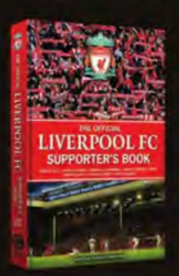
For a chance to win, simply answer the following question: Who's the oldest: Luis Suarez or Daniel Sturridge?

Closing date is Friday 11 April 2014. Email your answer – including your name and address – to LFCmag@programmemaster.com. Please put BOOKS COMPO in the subject bar. Winners will be announced in a forthcoming issue.










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WARRIOR
L.F.C.

Brad Jones on Instagram



15 February 2014
Rocking my @mauricelacroix today. #AllClass #precision #masterpiece



29 January 2014
Coming through...



5 January 2014
Great to get out on the pitch today. #win #cleansheet #happygk



5 December 2013
Same old faces in the gym @dstudge. #graft #rewards



5 September 2013
@sonamarmallorca was amazing! Great show



23 August 2013
Cricket on the IPad, Aussie Rules on the phone. Getting beat in both... Hard times!



12 August 2013
Someone is excited to see Mummy!



7 August 2013
Liverpool. Trying to spot my house...



22 July 2013
Cameras..



21 July 2013
We have arrived! #Melbourne



16 July 2013
Nice touch from Garuda Indonesia with our tour plane



5 June 2013
Perth's winters are shocking... Look at all those clouds!



Tommy SCOTT

The Space singer is loving the Kop class of 2013/14

I have enjoyed watching Liverpool since the Seventies and I believe the quality of the football now is as good as at any time over the past 20 years.

I get something of the Shankly vibe about Brendan Rodgers. Every time he speaks, I get a feeling of there being something special starting to happen here.

It's been quite a rapid rise. This is supposed to be a period where we're just building things up slowly. I think he said recently that if we can get into the Champions League this year it would be 12 months ahead of how he hoped it would pan out. So things seem to be happening quickly.

The other exciting thing about this season has been watching all the young players starting to click like Philippe Coutinho and Raheem Sterling. It's just amazing to watch. It's also good to see a Scouser like Jon Flanagan doing so well.

If we do get into the Champions League next season, I'd love to see us draw Barcelona as it would be great to see this style of play in action against them. That would be brilliant to watch.

People naturally don't want to get carried away and getting back into the Champions League has to be the first aim but when you talk about the title race, you can't rule Liverpool out. I don't see why we can't challenge until the end.

At the time of writing (post-Swansea) we were just four points off the top with 11 games remaining and we've still got to play three of the teams around us at home in Tottenham, City and Chelsea.



The skipper keeps his cool

If we get points off them, then who knows what is possible?

It's a strong position to be in going into the final couple of months of the season. It would be great if we didn't have to go into the qualifying positions of the Champions League by finishing in the top three.

Suarez and Sturridge have been brilliant and their goals-per-game ratio has been almost ridiculous, but Steven Gerard has been excellent too.

When people consider the pantheon of Liverpool greats he could easily be the best. He's just a genius and the way he's adapted to his new deeper role is fantastic too. He seems so cool that nothing affects him and he takes everything in his stride. He's like the Steve McQueen of football.

We've got a new album coming out at the back end of March and we can't wait to take it on tour. We've got a gig lined up for the middle of the month at the 02 Academy and there's nothing like the buzz of playing in front of your home crowd. Just like the football club, it's also an exciting time for the band.

> "Gerrard is so cool, nothing affects him – he's like Steve McQueen"

Space's new album Attack of the Mutant 50ft Kebab *is released in March. The band will play the 02 Academy in Liverpool on 21 March 2014. For details visit* ***www.spacetheband.com.***


L.F.C.
Standard Chartered

WHAT IF... KING KENNY HAD SIGNED FOR LIVERPOOL AT 15?



It's May 1971 and on a red-hot afternoon at Wembley, Arsenal are gunning for a League and FA Cup double.

In their way are Bill Shankly's Liverpool. After a goalless 90 minutes, Steve Heighway glides in from the wing to fire LFC ahead. But Eddie Kelly equalises for the Londoners before Charlie George puts Arsenal in front with a super strike from 20 yards.

All over? Not quite. Five minutes of extra-time remain when Kenny Dalglish, a promising 20-year-old enjoying a breakthrough season having signed as an apprentice in 1966, writes his name in FA Cup history. On for Liverpool as a sub after the normal-time whistle, he dives bravely to head home a low cross from winger Peter Thompson (who'd been many people's favourite for the no12 shirt). Sixty seconds later Dalglish takes Tommy Smith's pass on the edge of the box with his back to goal, expertly turns Gunners skipper Frank McLintock and arrows an unerring drive beyond the clutches of Bob Wilson. Three-two to the Mighty Reds!

It could just have happened in a parallel universe. In a Sliding Doors moment, Kenny did have a trial at Liverpool in August 1966 and played in a B-team match against Southport.

Kenny where he really was in 1971 – in Scotland with Celtic

Reds boss Shankly wanted to offer terms to the 15-year-old but Dalglish's father deemed him too young to leave home. Instead the young striker extended his stay at Celtic, and Shanks turned his attentions to a youngster from Scunthorpe named Kevin Keegan, who travelled with the squad to that 1971 Cup final, won 2-1 by the Gunners.

After 323 games and 100 goals in the red shirt, Keegan – the superstar of his day – left to sample life in the Bundesliga with SV Hamburg. In response Liverpool paid a club record £440,000 to finally bring King Kenny to Anfield.